三国志 34

落鳳坡の衝撃

横山光輝

希望コミックス 103

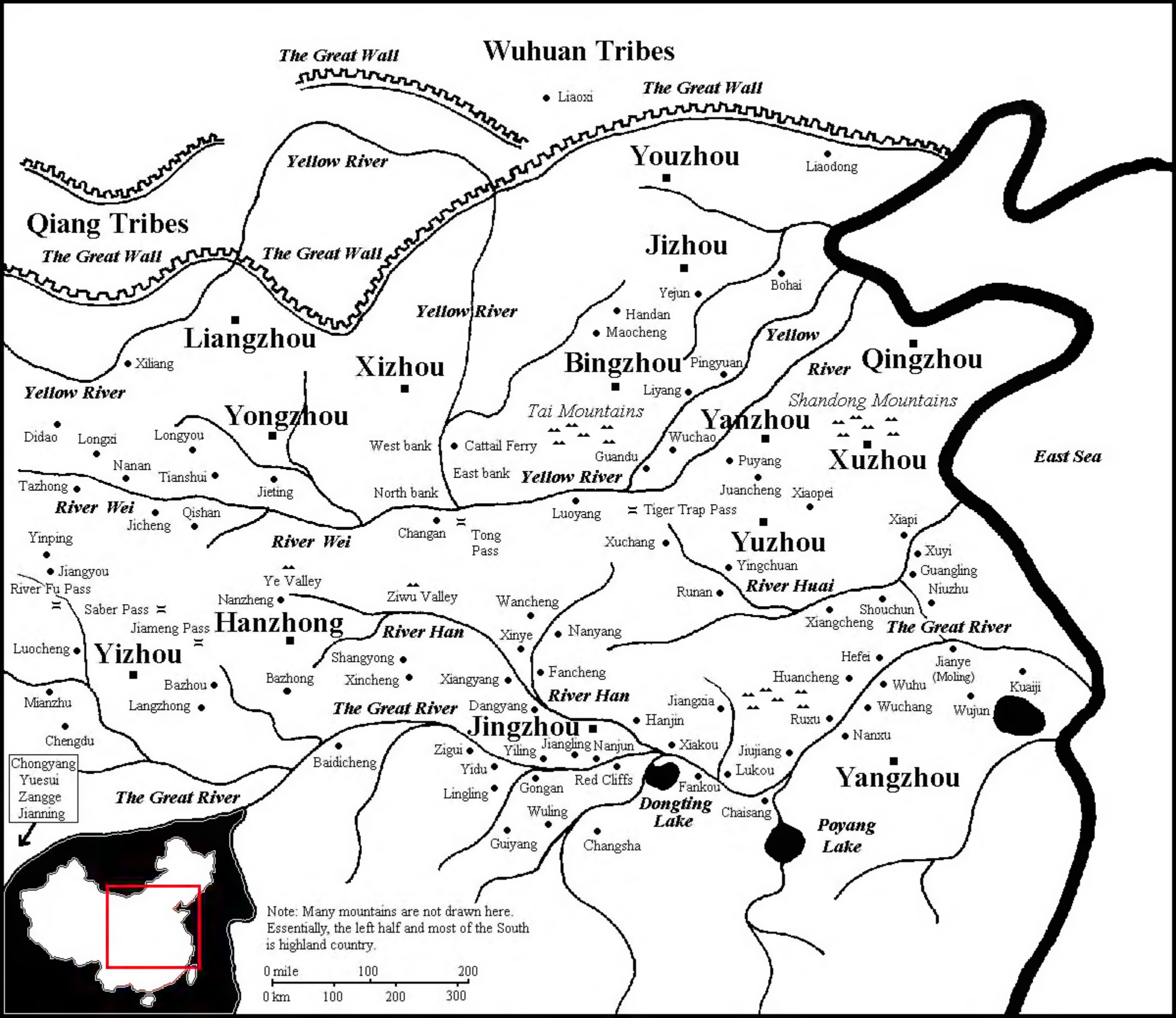
SANGOKUSHI

34

VALLEY OF THE FALLEN PHOENIX

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

PANG TONG SHIYUAN


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

SANGOKUSHI'S CAST OF CHARACTERS

PART 1: CHARACTERS TO KEEP IN MIND

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. HAVING BECOME THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE HAS RELEGATED EMPEROR XIAN AS A MERE PUPPET RULER.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS WHO THEN PRESENTED HER TO EMPEROR LING. SHE SOON BECAME EMPEROR LING'S FAVOURITE CONSORT AND GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE LIU BIAN. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE MIGHTY GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING AND FRIEND TO LIU BEI. HE WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO AFTER THE LATTER TRICKS HIM AND KILLS HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON WHO FIRST APPEARS IN VOLUME 19.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT SINCE THE END OF V28, HE NOW SERVES LIU BEI.

JIA XU:
THE SHREWD STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO ZHANG XIU. HE AND ZHANG XIU PLOTS A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, BUT SUCCEEDS IN KILLING DIAN WEI. IN VOLUME 16, HE AND ZHANG XIU DEFECT TO CAO CAO'S SIDE.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU REBELS.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, SAID TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22.

LIU XIE (EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN):
FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCE OF CHENLIU, HE IS THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF HAN, THOUGH CAO CAO HAS SEIZED ALL REAL POWER AWAY FROM HIM.

LU BU:
HE IS SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR WITH THE FASTEST HORSE, THE RED HARE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU SU:
MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO. UNLIKE THE ACTUAL HISTORICAL FIGURE, HE IS DEPICTED AS A HAN LOYALIST WHO SIGNS DONG CHENG'S BLOOD SEAL PLEDGE.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING, ALONG WITH ZHUGE LIANG AND XU SHU. HE CURRENTLY SERVES NO LORD BUT ASSISTS WU IN THE BATTLE OF RED CLIFFS.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN. IN VOLUME 19, ASSASSINS MAKE A FAILED ATTEMPT AT HIS LIFE. HIS MENTAL HEALTH SOON DETERIORATES DUE TO THE INCIDENT WITH YU JI AND HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH.

SUN JIAN:
BORN IN WU COMMANDERY, HE WAS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA. HE PARTICIPATES IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. BUT IS FINDING OF THE IMPERIAL SEAL CAUSES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM. IN VOLUME 7, HE TRIES TO EXACT HIS REVENGE ON LIU BIAO, ONLY TO BE KILLED IN BATTLE.

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, A REGION IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL HE JIN BUT WERE LATER KILLED BY HE JIN'S ARMY LED BY YUAN SHAO.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHANG IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG BUT SINCE THE END OF V28, HE NOW SERVES LIU BEI.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVING LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S MOST TALENTED ADVISORS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YI JI:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU BIAO WHO WARNS LIU BEI ABOUT CAI MAO'S PLOT TO ASSASSINATE LIU BEI IN VOLUME 20.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY IS DEFEATED AND KILLED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER RETAINER TO YUAN SHAO WHO LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE LATER MEETS UP WITH LIU BEI AND FINALLY BECOMES HIS RETAINER.

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, HE IS A SKILLED ADMIRAL WHO SERVES AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FOR WU'S ARMY. CONVINCED THAT HIS ALLY KONGMING IS TOO MUCH OF A THREAT, HE CURRENTLY SCHEMES FOR HIS DEATH.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI'S CAST OF CHARACTERS
PART 2: OTHER MINOR CHARACTERS

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO REN:
GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO.

CAO HONG:
GENERAL AND COUSIN TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 6, HE SAVES CAO CAO FROM CERTAIN DEATH.

CAO SONG:
CAO CAO'S FATHER AND A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED BY TAO QIAN'S ESCORT AND FORMER YELLOW TURBAN, ZHANG KAI.

DING YUAN:
GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU AND LU BU'S FOSTER-FATHER. HE OBJECTED TO DONG ZHUO'S SCHEME TO PLACE PRINCE CHENLIU AS THE EMPEROR OF HAN, EARNING DONG ZHUO'S WRATH. IN VOLUME 4, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS FOSTER-SON, LU BU, WHO THEN DEFECTS TO SERVE DONG ZHUO.

EMPRESS DOWAGER DONG:
MOTHER TO THE FORMER EMPEROR LING AND GRANDMOTHER TO EMPEROR XIAN. IN VOLUME 3, EMPRESS HE ORDERS FOR HER DEATH TO SECURE HER SON LIU BIAN'S THRONE AS THE NEXT EMPEROR OF HAN.

GAO SHUN:
ONE OF LU BU'S TRUSTED GENERALS. HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH HIS LORD IN VOLUME 14.

GUO SI:
A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED UNTIL THE EMPEROR RUNS TO CAO CAO FOR PROTECTION.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

HE JIN:
OLDER BROTHER OF EMPRESS HE. ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER BECAME EMPEROR LING'S CONSORT. IN VOLUME 3, HE ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE THE TEN ATTENDANTS, ONLY TO BE DISSUADED FROM DOING SO BY HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE IS LATER KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS.

HOU CHENG:
ONE OF LU BU'S GENERALS. IN VOLUME 14, HE, ALONG WITH GENERALS WEI XU AND SONG XIAN, BETRAYS LU BU AND DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SIDE.

HUA XIONG:
FAMED GENERAL SERVING UNDER DONG ZHUO. IN VOLUME 5, HE DEFEATS SUN JIAN'S ARMY BUT IS LATER KILLED BY GUAN YU.

JI PING:
IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN OF HAN WHO, WITH DONG CHENG, PLOTS TO POISON CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 17, CAO CAO DISCOVERS THEIR PLOT AND EXECUTES HIM.

JIANG GAN:
CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF ZHOU YU AND NOW AN ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE FAILS TO PERSUADE ZHOU YU TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO, AND INADVERTANTLY HELPS ZHOU YU'S PLOT TO FRAME CAI MAO.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

LADY FUYOU:
FICTIONAL CHARACTER CREATED BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA AND LIU BEI'S FIRST LOVE. ZHANG FEI FORMERLY SERVED HER FAMILY, WHO WERE MASSCRED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELS.

LADY MI:
LIU BEI'S FIRST WIFE.

LADY SUN:
SUN QUAN'S YOUNGER SISTER AND LIU BEI'S WIFE AS OF VOLUME 29. SHE IS QUITE FOND OF WEAPONS AND MARTIAL ARTS TO THE POINT THAT SHE HAS HER ATTENDANT LADIES DRESSED IN FULL ARMOUR. HER REAL NAME IS NOT KNOWN BUT SHE IS ALSO KNOWN AS SUN REN, SUN RENXIAN, SUN SHANGXIAN, AND SUN AN.

LI JUE:
A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND GUO SI TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED UNTIL THE EMPEROR RUNS TO CAO CAO FOR PROTECTION.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

LIU BIAN:
THE SON OF EMPRESS HE AND BRIEFLY THE EMPEROR OF HAN AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, EMPEROR LING. IN VOLUME 4, HE WAS DEPOSED BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER BY LI RU.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21.

LU ZHI:
LIU BEI'S FORMER TEACHER AND THE PALACE COMMANDER WHO WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF LEADING THE HAN ARMY AGAINST THE YELLOW TURBANS. HE WAS LATER DEMOTED FOR FAILING TO BRIBE ONE OF THE IMPERIAL MESSENGERS.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO AND THE OLDER BROTHER OF LIU CONG.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

SUN QIAN:
ADVISOR/EMISSARY SERVING LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. (IN RECORDS OF THE THRE KINGDOMS, WRITTEN BY CHEN SHOU, YU JIN IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS FOR WEI.)

ZHANG BAO:
ZHANG JIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND THE YELLOW TURBAN'S GENERAL OF THE LAND. HE WAS KILLED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 2.

ZHANG JIAO:
LEADER OF THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION. HE PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 3.

ZHANG ZHAO/ZHANG HONG:
THE TWO GENIUSES OF JIANGDONG, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "TWO ZHANGS." AFTER SUN CE'S ADMANT INSISTENCE, THEY DECIDE TO SERVE HIM AND HELP HIS CAMPAIGN TO CONQUER JIANGNAN AND JIANGDONG.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

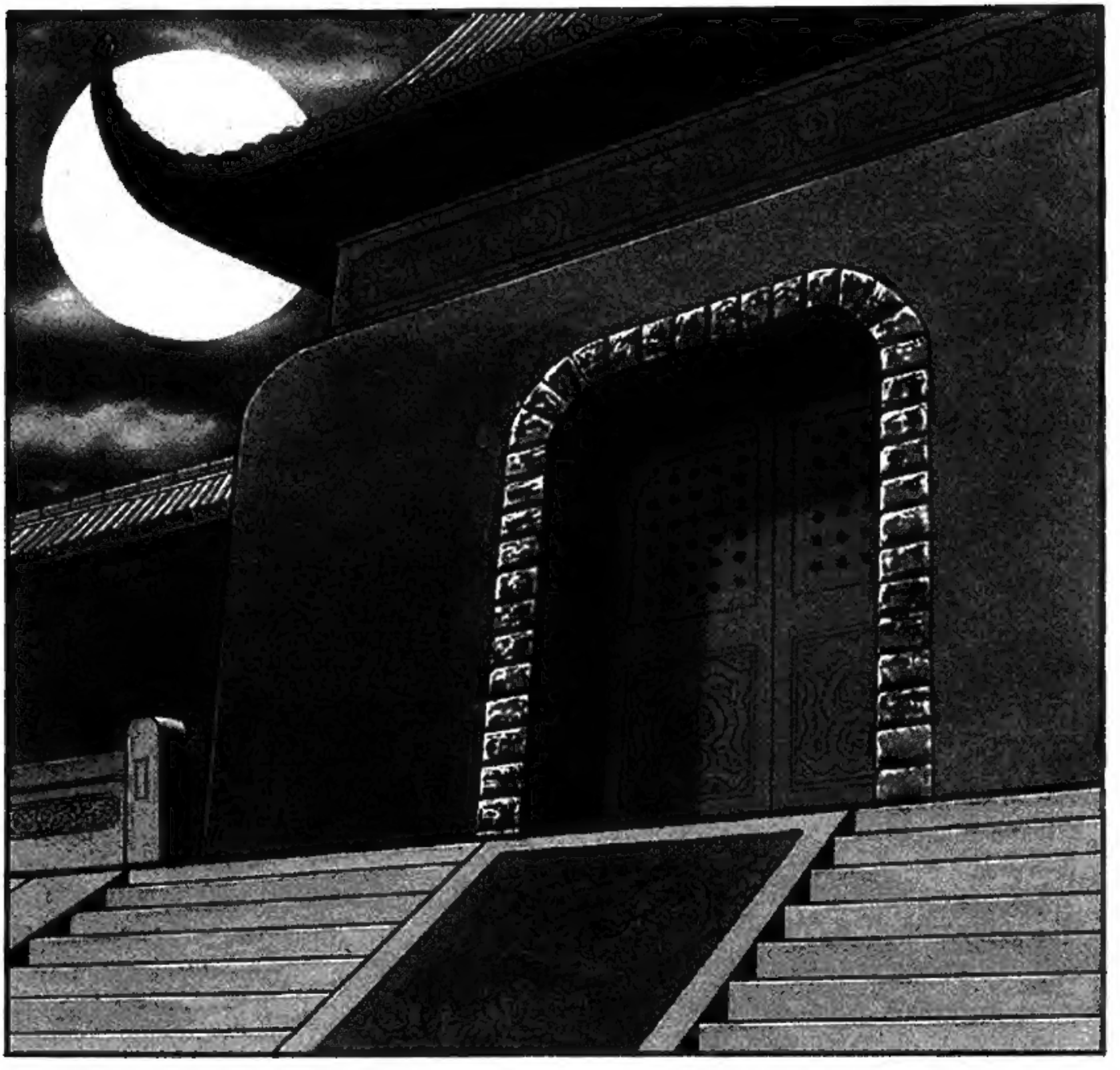
VOLUME 34
VALLEY OF THE FALLEN PHOENIX

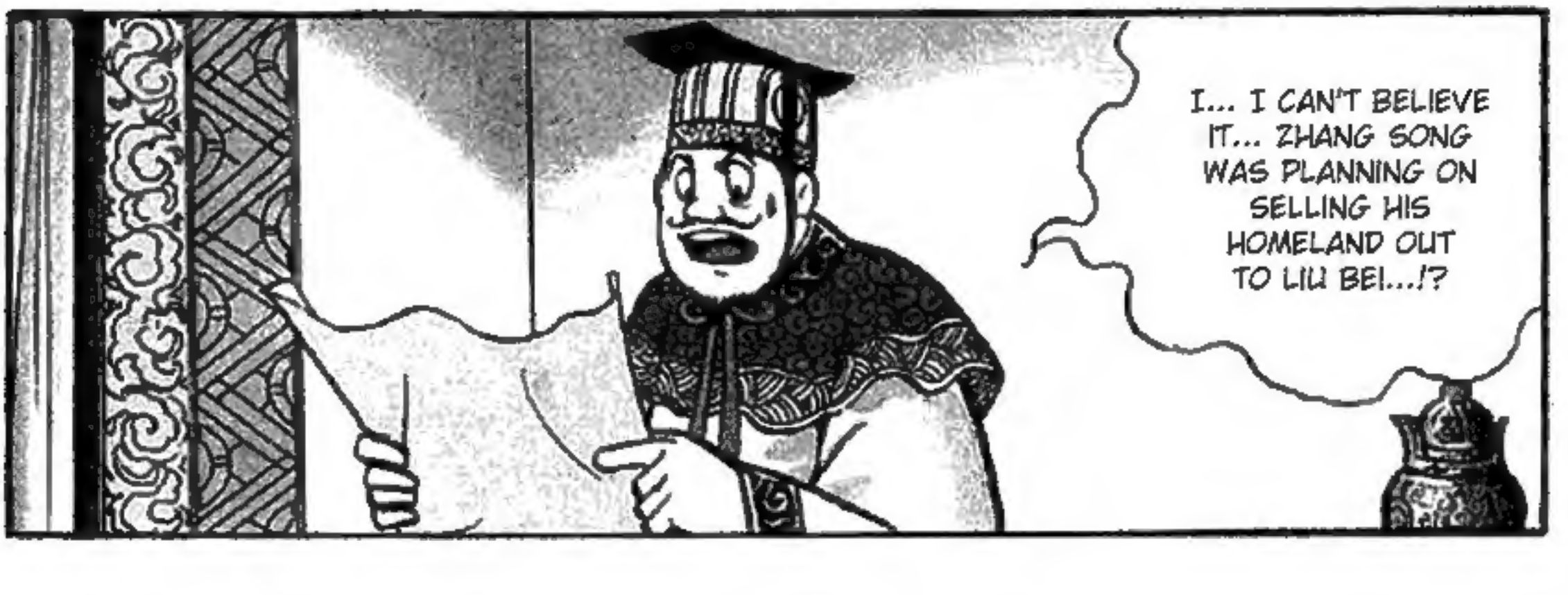
TABLE OF CONTENTS

LURE 191
CLEARING THE FOREST 172
FALLING STAR 150
EBBING TIDE 130
FALL OF THE PHOENIX 104
LAKE BOTTOM 80
TO STEAL A MARCH 53
HIGH PRIEST OF THE AZURE REALM 35
SAFEGUARD 7

〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

SAFEGUARD



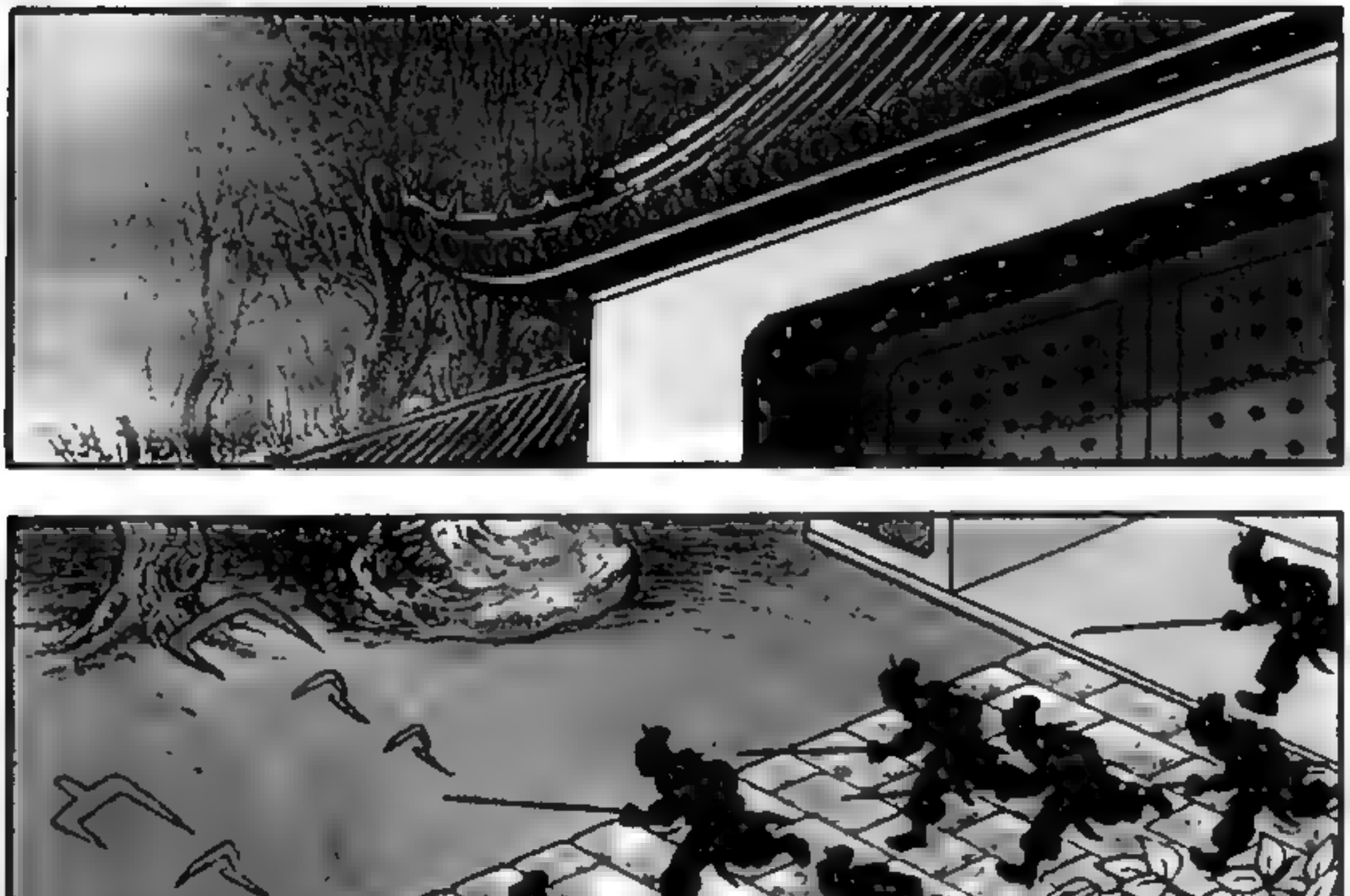

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... ZHANG SONG WAS PLANNING ON SELLING HIS HOMELAND OUT TO LIU BEI...!?

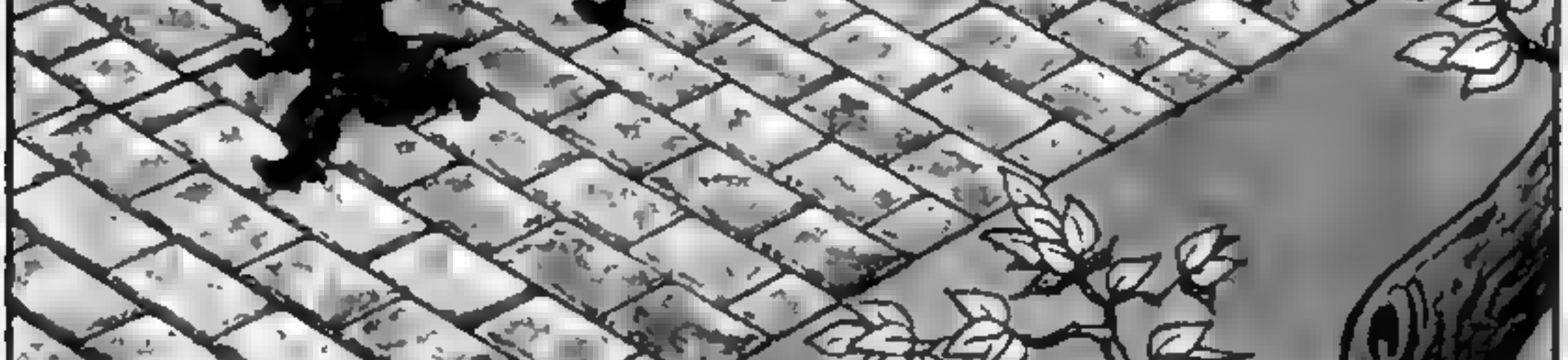
I THANK YOU KINDLY.

I, ZHANG SU, MAY BE ZHANG SONG'S OLDER BROTHER, BUT AS THE GOVERNOR OF GUANGHAN, I AM ALSO YOUR INDEBTED AND LOYAL SERVANT. AS SUCH, I ONLY FELT IT WAS RIGHT TO REPORT TO YOU ABOUT THIS MATTER.

YES, SIR!

IN ANY CASE, I WANT THIS TRAITOR EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY AND HIS HEAD DISPLAYED OUT IN TOWN FOR EVERYONE TO SEE!





WHAT'S GOING ON!?

HM?

W-WHY?

YOU'RE HEREBY UNDER ARREST!

AH!

WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR SECRET LETTER TO LIU BEI!

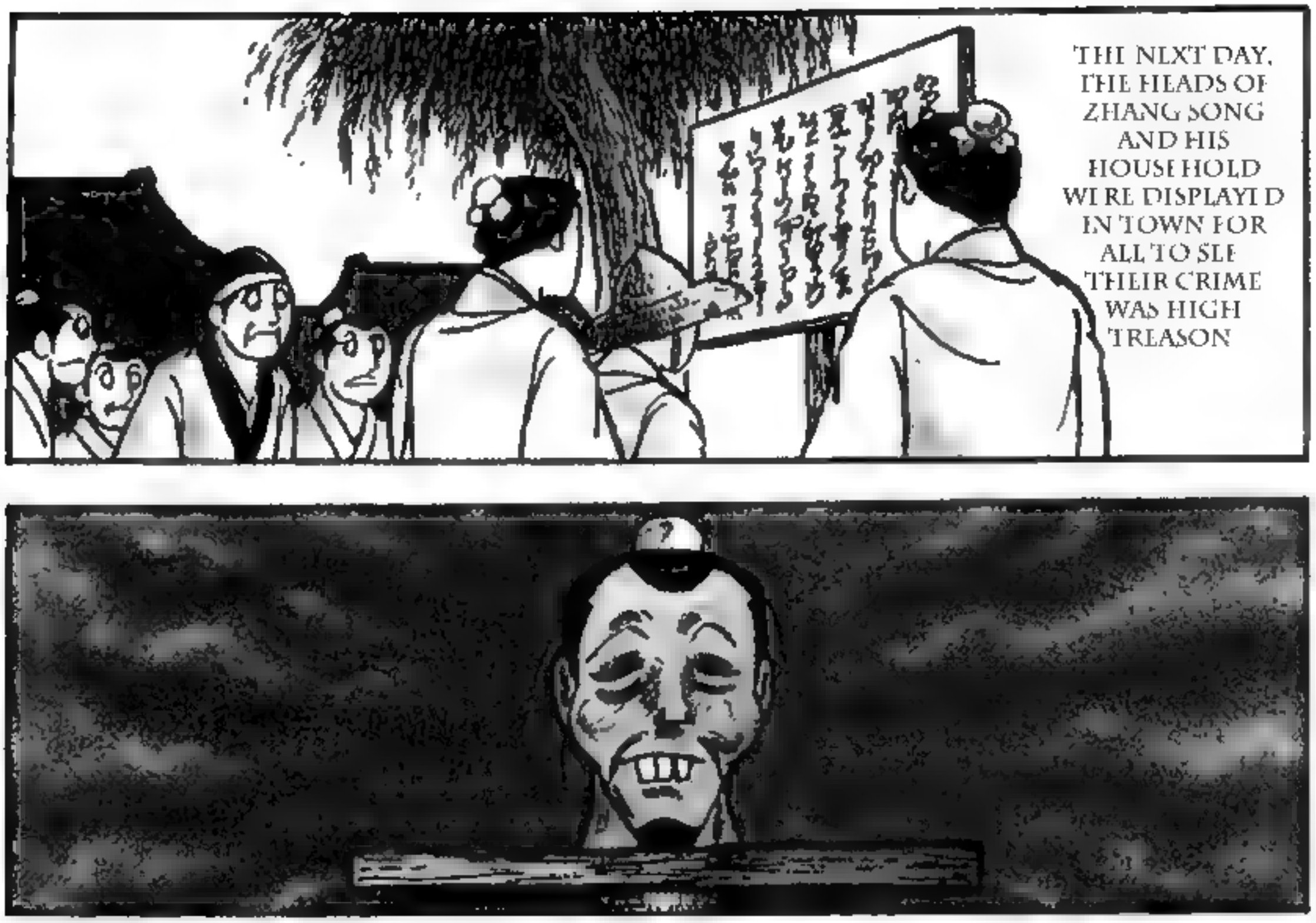
IT MUST'VE BEEN MY BROTHER!

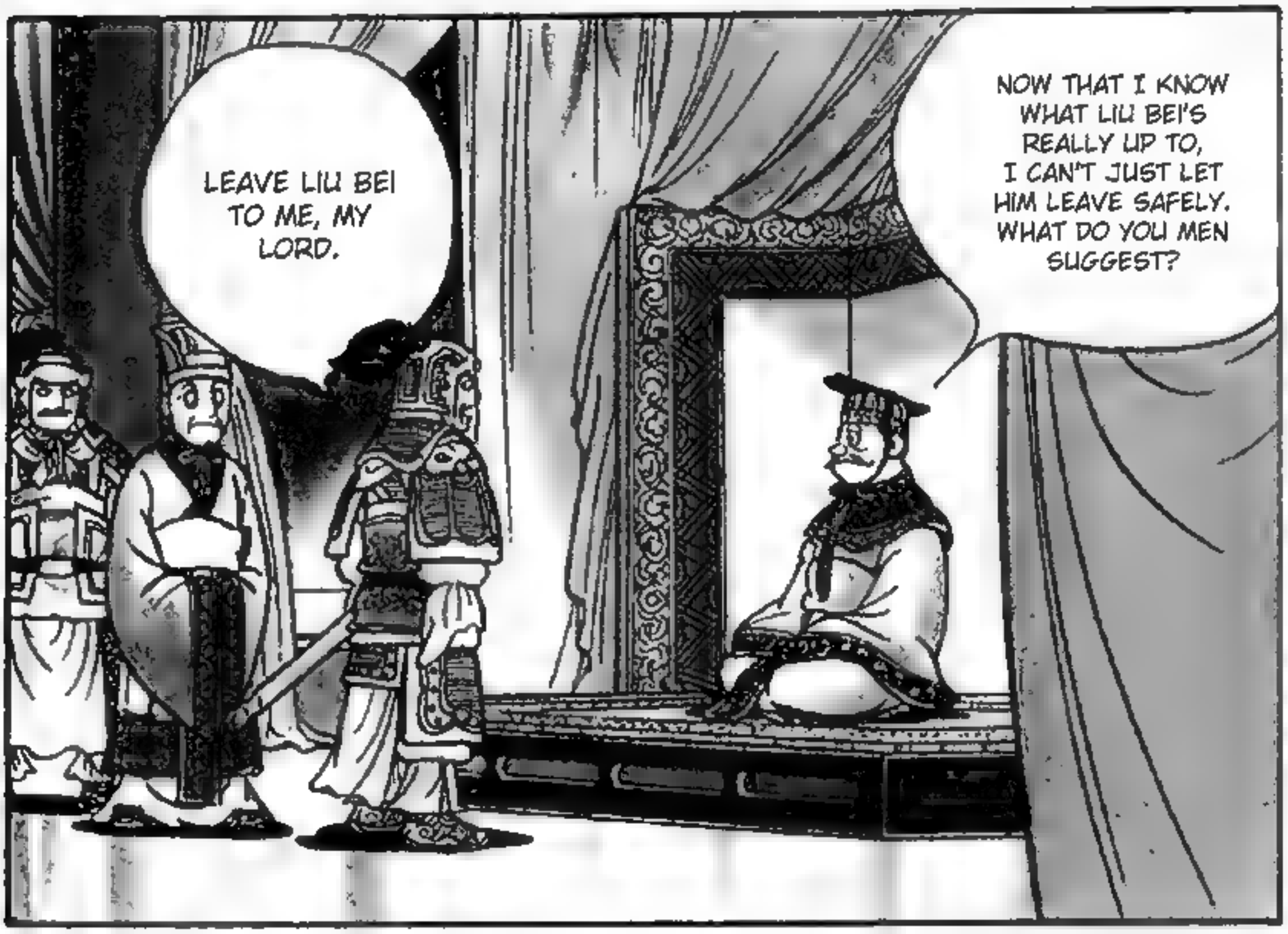
NOW COME QUIETLY!

ZHANG SU... CAN YOU NOT SEE THE STORM CLOUDS LOOMING OVER SHU UNDER LIU ZHANG'S REIGN...?

WHILE I PASSED OUT FROM DRINKING SO MUCH...

HE MUST'VE SEEN MY LETTER.


THE NEXT DAY, THE HEADS OF ZHANG SONG AND HIS HOUSEHOLD WERE DISPLAYED IN TOWN FOR ALL TO SEE. THEIR CRIME WAS HIGH TREASON.


LEAVE LIU BEI TO ME, MY LORD.
NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT LIU BEI'S REALLY UP TO, I CAN'T JUST LET HIM LEAVE SAFELY. WHAT DO YOU MEN SUGGEST?

LIU BEI SAYS HE'LL BE RETREATING TO FORTIFY JINGZHOU'S DEFENCES. HOWEVER, HE IS UNAWARE THAT WE'VE ALREADY SEEN THROUGH HIS LIES.

...

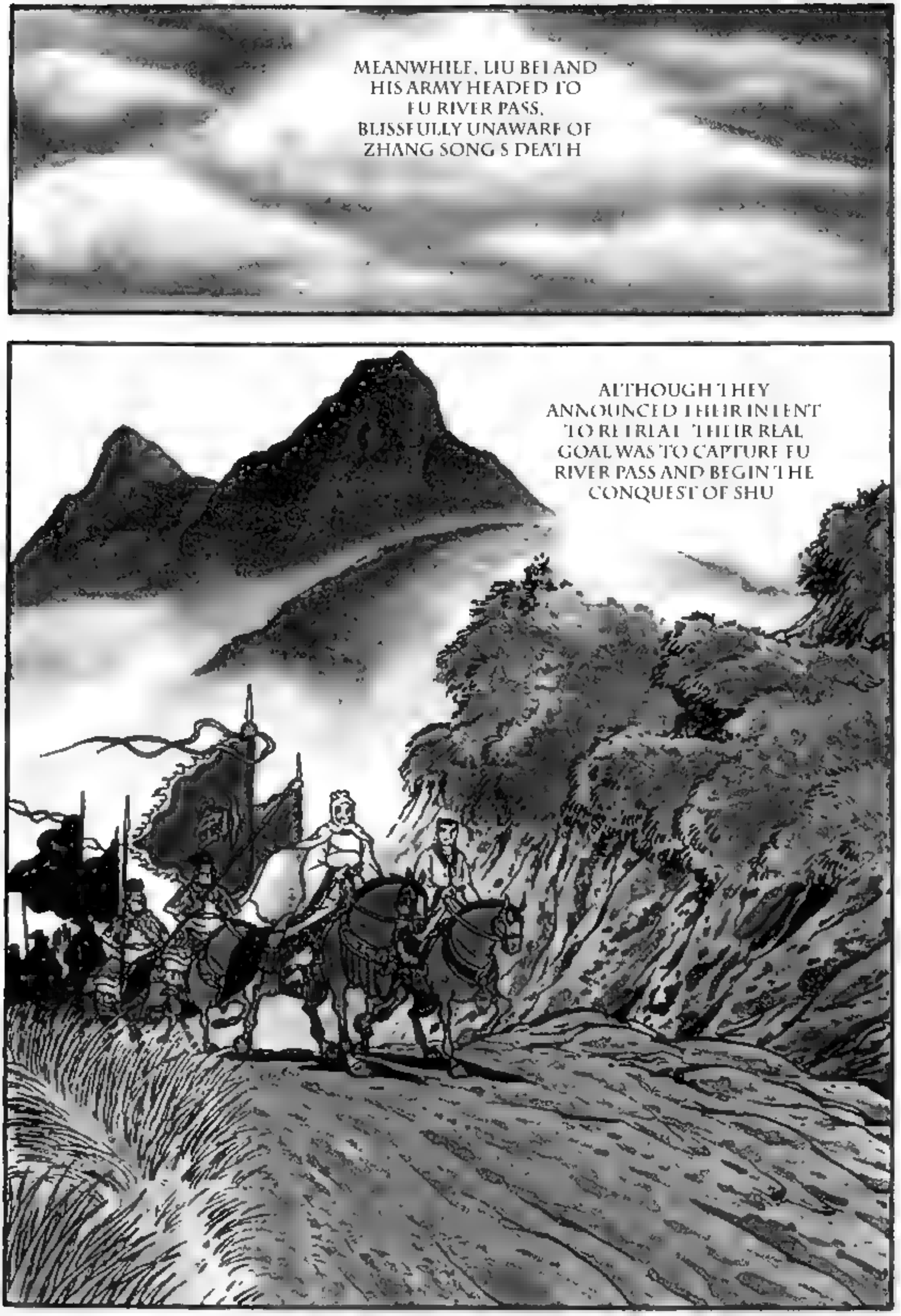
YOU HAVE A PLAN, YANG HUAI?

SO WHEN HE COMES BY FU RIVER PASS, GAO PEI AND I WILL HAVE A PRIVATE BANQUET IN HIS HONOUR TO THANK HIM FOR ALL HIS EFFORTS. THAT'LL BE THE BEST CHANCE TO ASSASSINATE HIM.

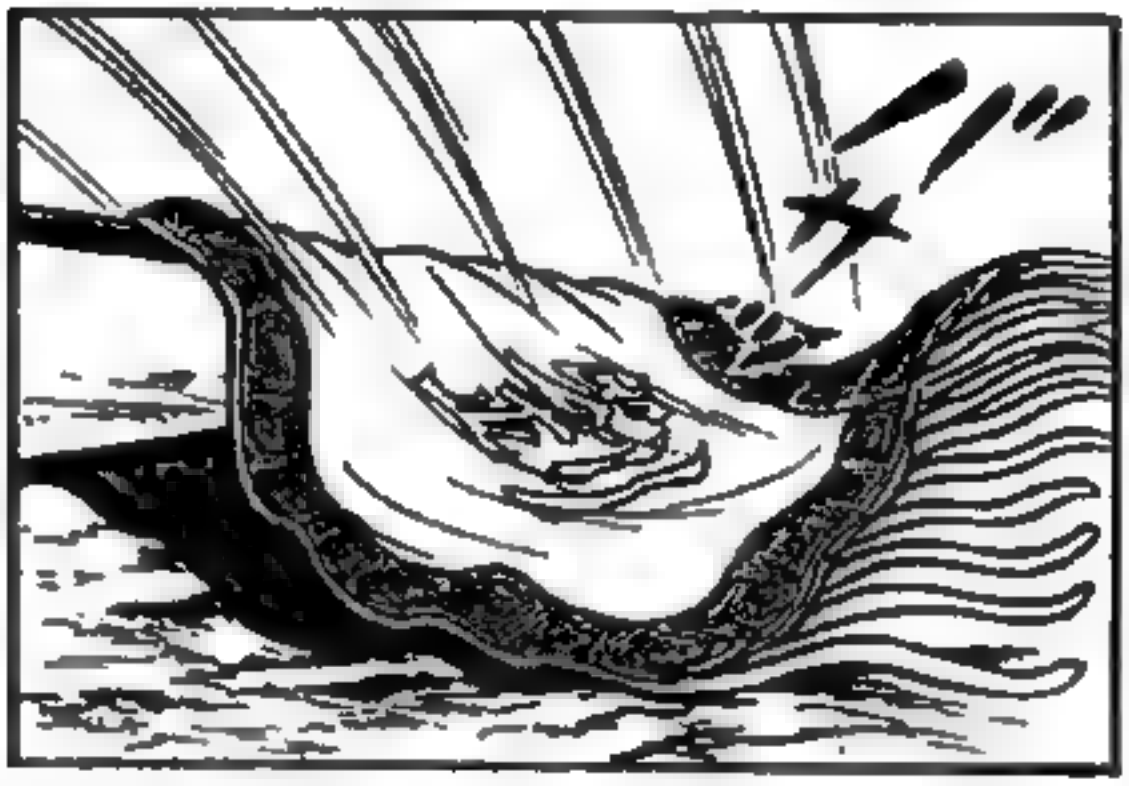
HE'LL SOON REST IN PEACE FOR ETERNITY...

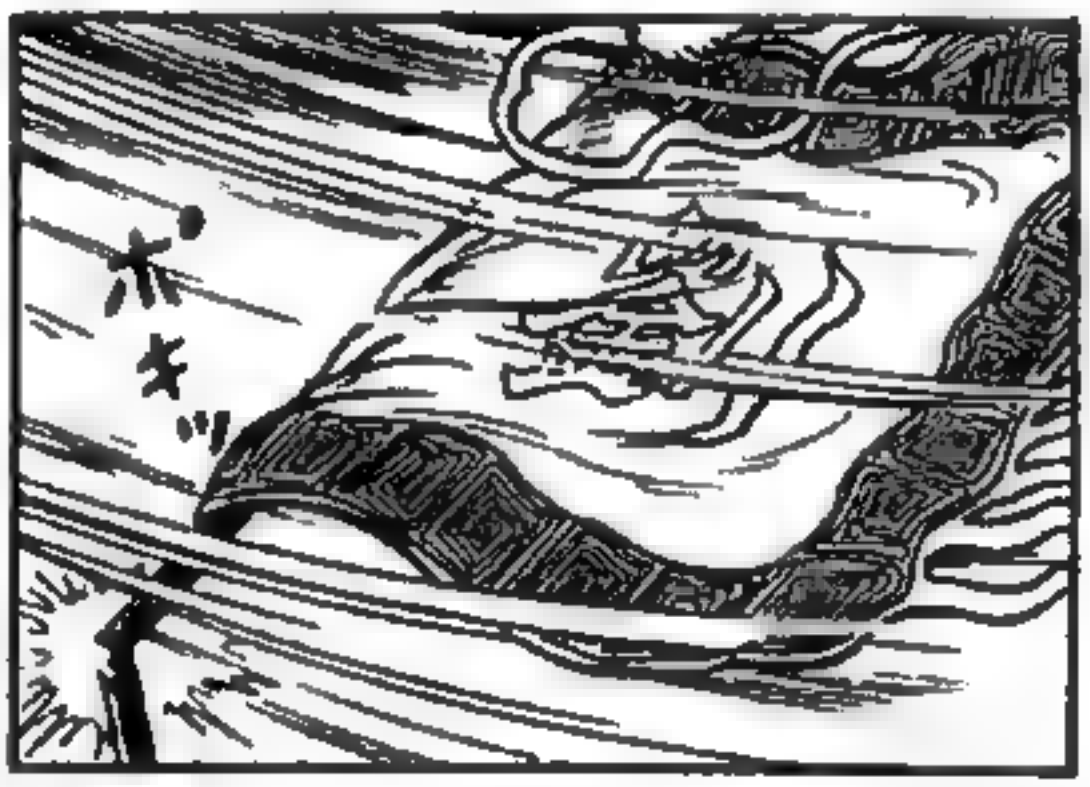
EXCELLENT IDEA!

YANG HUAI QUICKLY RETURNED TO FU RIVER PASS


MEANWHILE, LIU BEI AND HIS ARMY HEADED TO FU RIVER PASS, BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF ZHANG SONG'S DEATH
ALTHOUGH THEY ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENT TO RETREAT, THEIR REAL GOAL WAS TO CAPTURE FU RIVER PASS AND BEGIN THE CONQUEST OF SHU

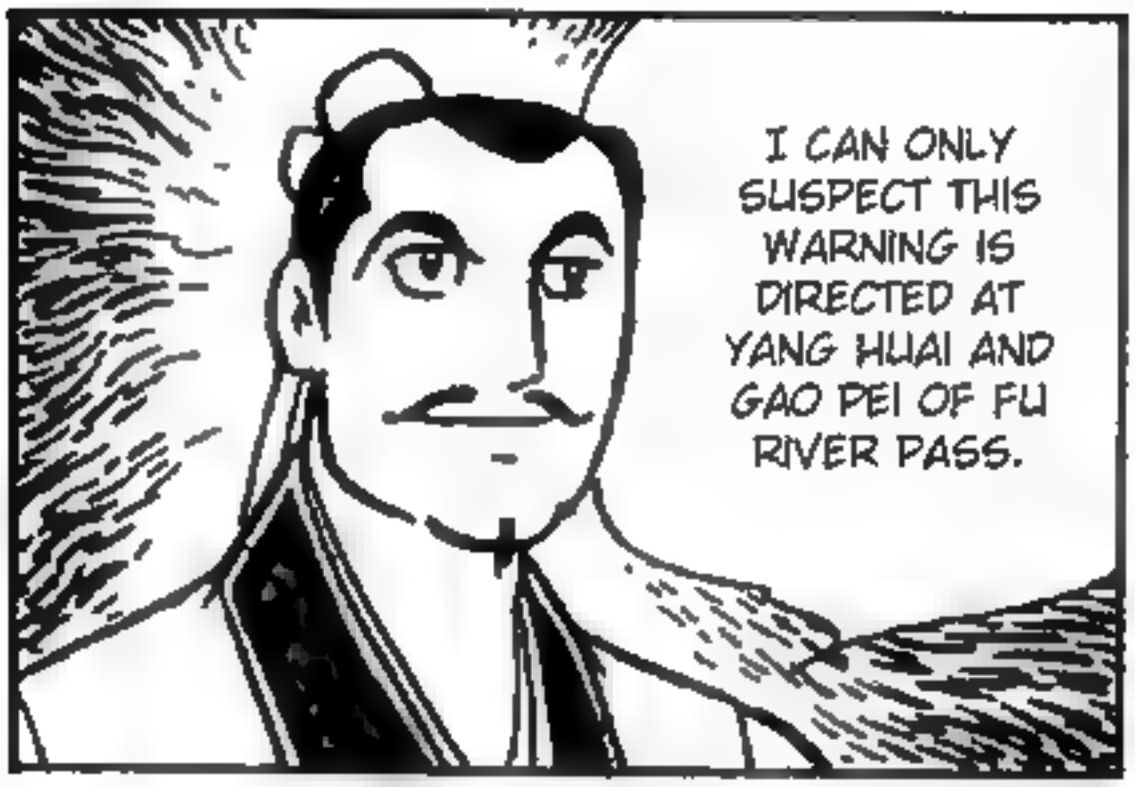
ヒュウ





MY BANNER BREAKING? WHAT ILL OMEN IS THIS?

HM?


I CAN ONLY SUSPECT THIS WARNING IS DIRECTED AT YANG HUAI AND GAO PEI OF FU RIVER PASS.

NO, THE HEAVENS ARE WARNING US. IF ANYTHING, WE SHOULD CONSIDER OURSELVES FORTUNATE.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARDS DOWN, MEN! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANY AMBUSHES.

MY GUESS IS THEY'RE PLOTTING AGAINST MY LORD.

HM?

GREETINGS, SIR. ARE YOU ALREADY ON YOUR WAY HOME TO JINGZHOU?

THE JOURNEY AHEAD WILL BE A DIFFICULT ONE, SO I HOPE THIS FOOD AND WINE WILL HELP RAISE YOU AND YOUR MEN'S SPIRITS.

WHY YES.

GENERALS GAO PEI AND YANG HUAI WILL BE COMING OUT HERE SHORTLY TO SAY FAREWELL AND PERHAPS SHARE ONE LAST DRINK WITH YOU, SIR. I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT OUR GIFTS. IT IS THE LEAST WE COULD DO.

THANK YOU. I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE THEN.

OF COURSE MY LORD WILL ACCEPT! WE COULD NOT BE MORE GRATEFUL TO YANG HUAI AND GAO PEI.

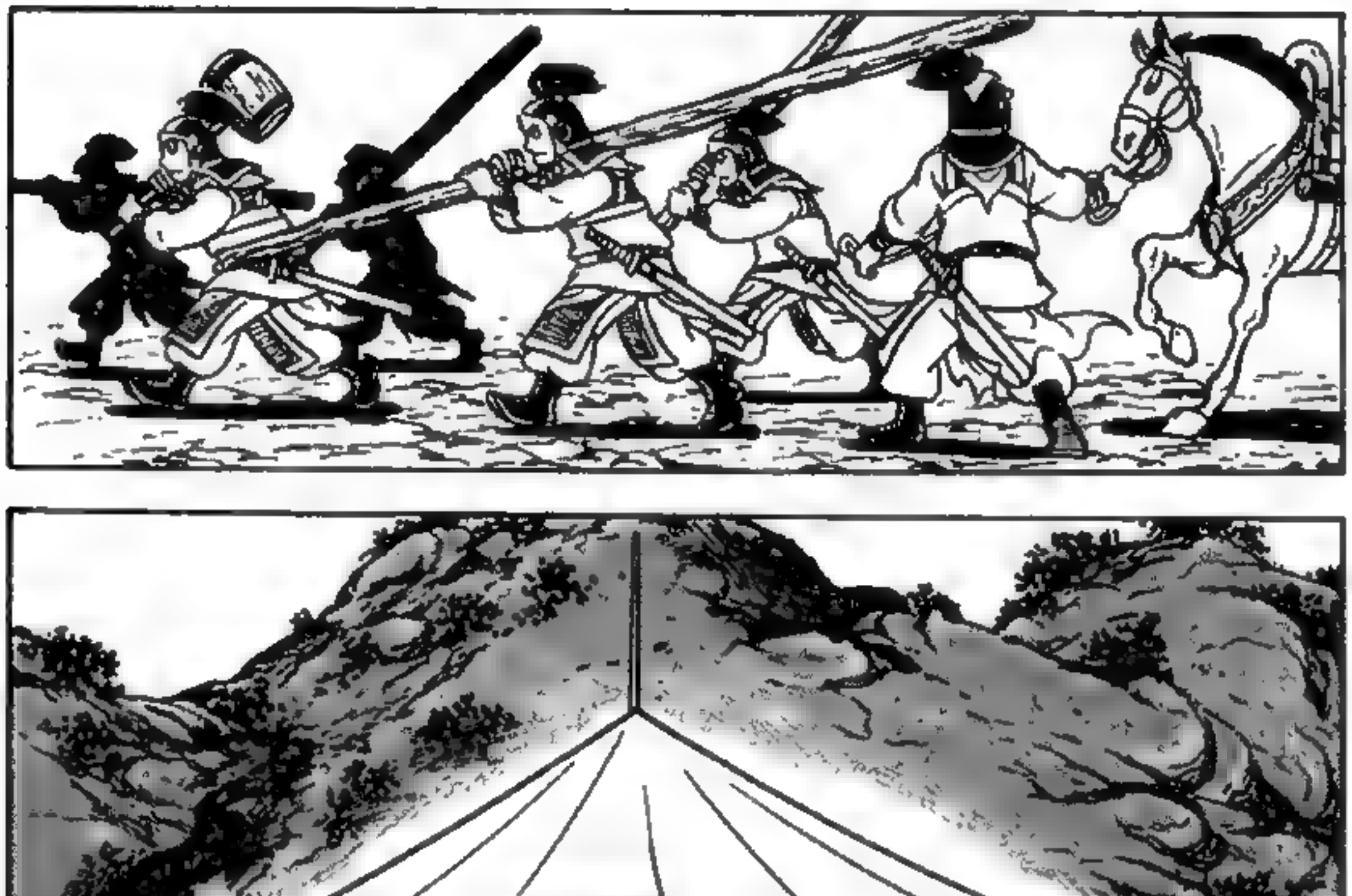
YES, I SUSPECT JUST THE SAME.

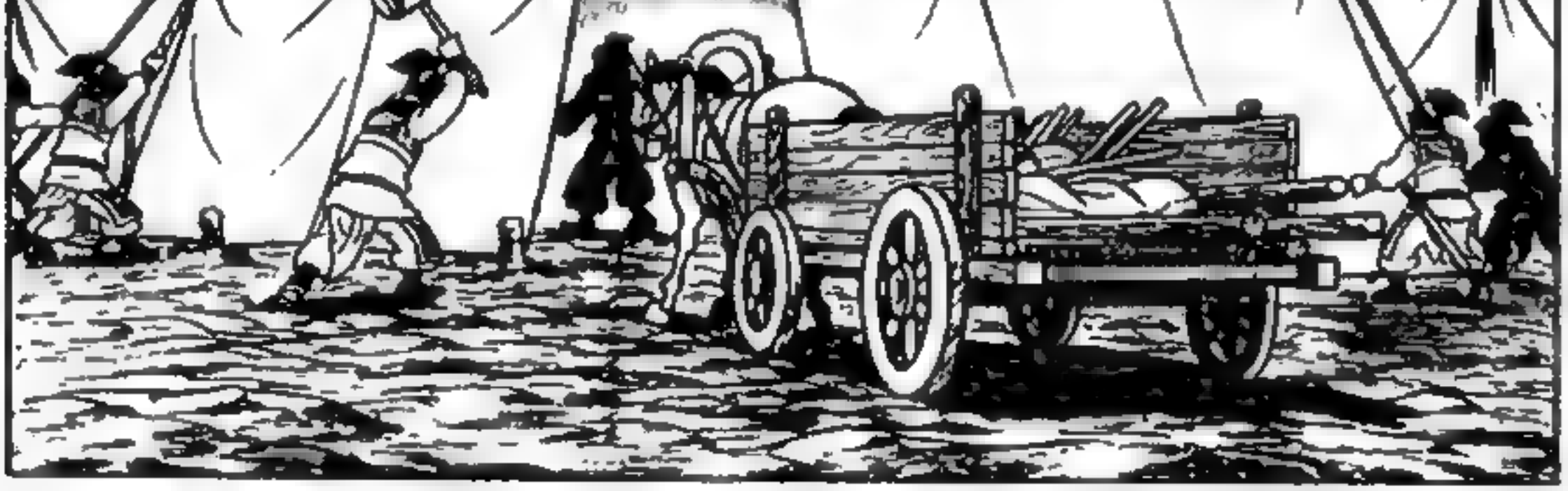
IT APPEARS YANG HUAI AND GAO PEI INTEND ON KILLING YOU OUTSIDE, FOR THEY'RE FEARFUL OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN IF THEY AGREED TO LET YOUR SOLDIERS IN THE PASS.

SET UP THE TENTS HERE!

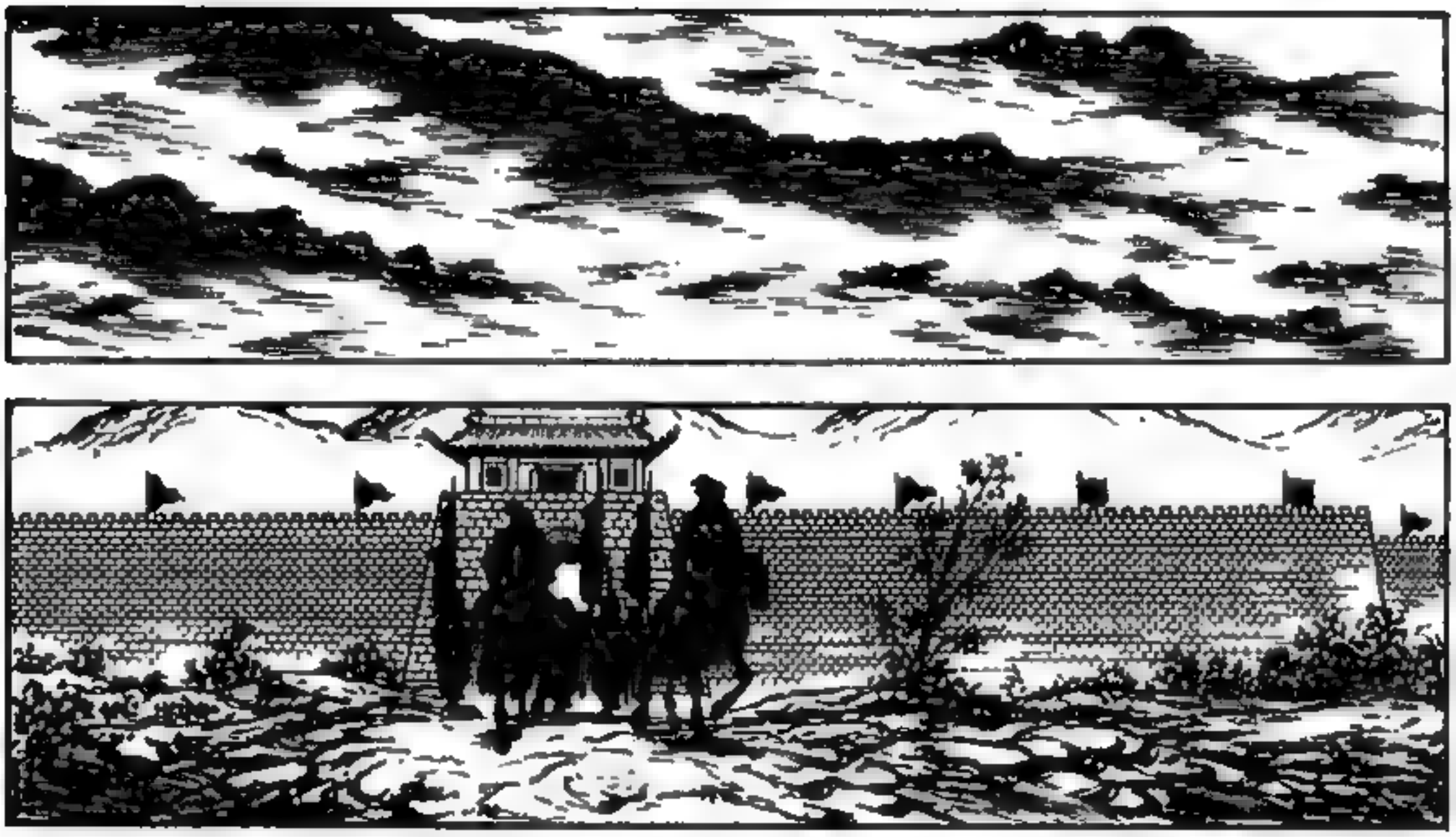
YES?

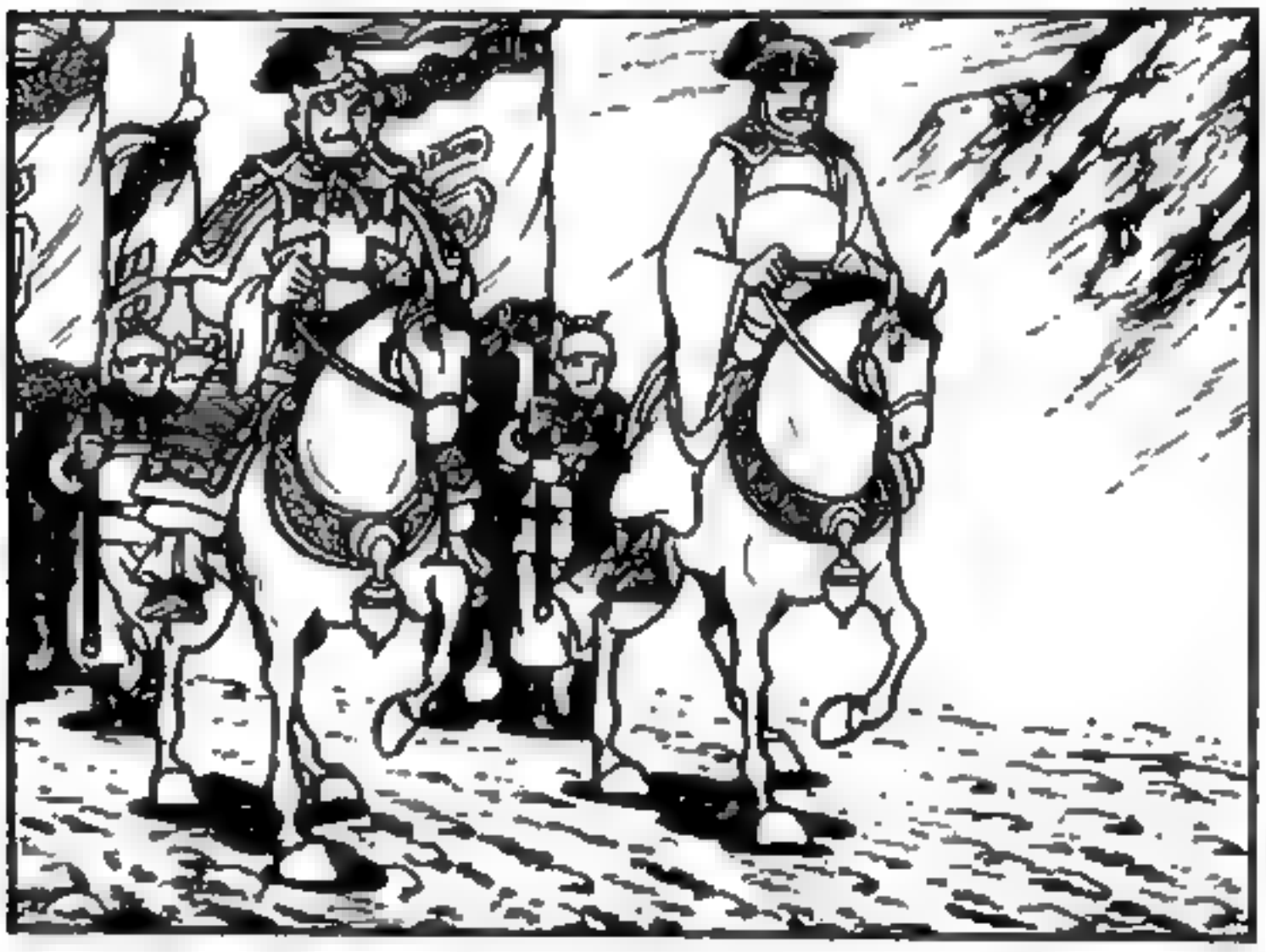
I HAVE JUST THE PLAN FOR THIS SCENARIO.





UNDER-
STOOD.
HUANG ZHONG, WEI YAN. WHEN THE ENEMY GENERALS COME OUTSIDE, MAKE SURE NONE OF THEIR SOLDIERS RETURN BACK TO THE PASS.





HERE THEY COME...

NO, NO. THIS IS THE LEAST WE COULD DO AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR SHU. LET US ENJOY OUR FINAL DAY TOGETHER.

OH, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT AND SAY FAREWELL PERSONALLY.

HAVE YOUR SERVANTS HOLD ONTO OUR SWORDS WHILE WE DINE.

THIS WAY, SIRS.

GREETINGS TO YOU, IMPERIAL UNCLE LIU. WE'VE COME TO BID YOU FAREWELL.
WELCOME, GENERALS YANG HUAI AND GAO PEI. I'M DEEPLY THANKFUL FOR YOUR GIFTS.
I'M NOT ONE FOR TEARFUL GOOD-BYES. LET US ALL DRINK HEARTILY AND MAKE THIS FAREWELL AN ENJOYABLE ONE!
YES, OF COURSE. WE ALL UNDER-STAND.
IT'S A REAL PITY I COULD NOT STAY LONGER AND HELP LIU ZHANG, BUT WITH CAO CAO ENCROACHING WU'S BORDERS AGAIN, I MUST RETURN AND FORTIFY JINGZHOU'S DEFENCES.

SERVANTS! KEEP THE DRINKS COMING!

AH, THERE IS ONE MATTER I WANTED TO PRIVATELY DISCUSS.

THE PERFECT CHANCE...

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU DESIRE, WE GLADLY OBLIGE...

IT'S A LITTLE AWKWARD TO BRING UP WITH ALL THESE GUARDS, SO WHY DON'T WE ASK THEM TO LEAVE US ALONE FOR A WHILE?

LEAVE US ALONE FOR A MOMENT.

W-WHA!?

HM!?

SEARCH THE BODIES.

SILENCE! HOW DARE YOU CONTINUE TO BE A THORN IN THE BROTHER-HOOD BETWEEN LIU ZHANG AND I!?

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?

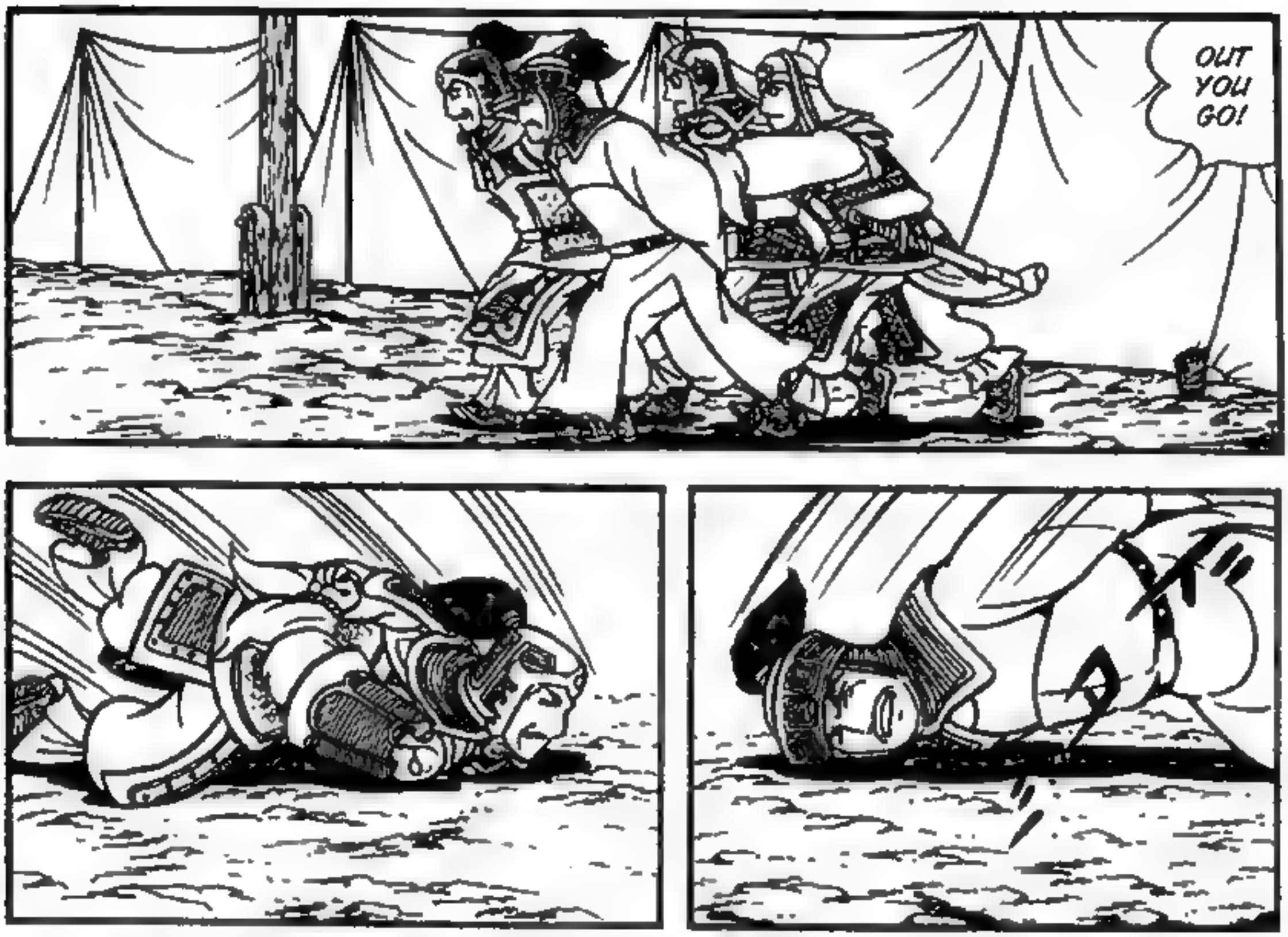
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING WITH THESE DAGGERS!?

BOTH OF THEM WERE CONCEAL-ING DAGGERS.

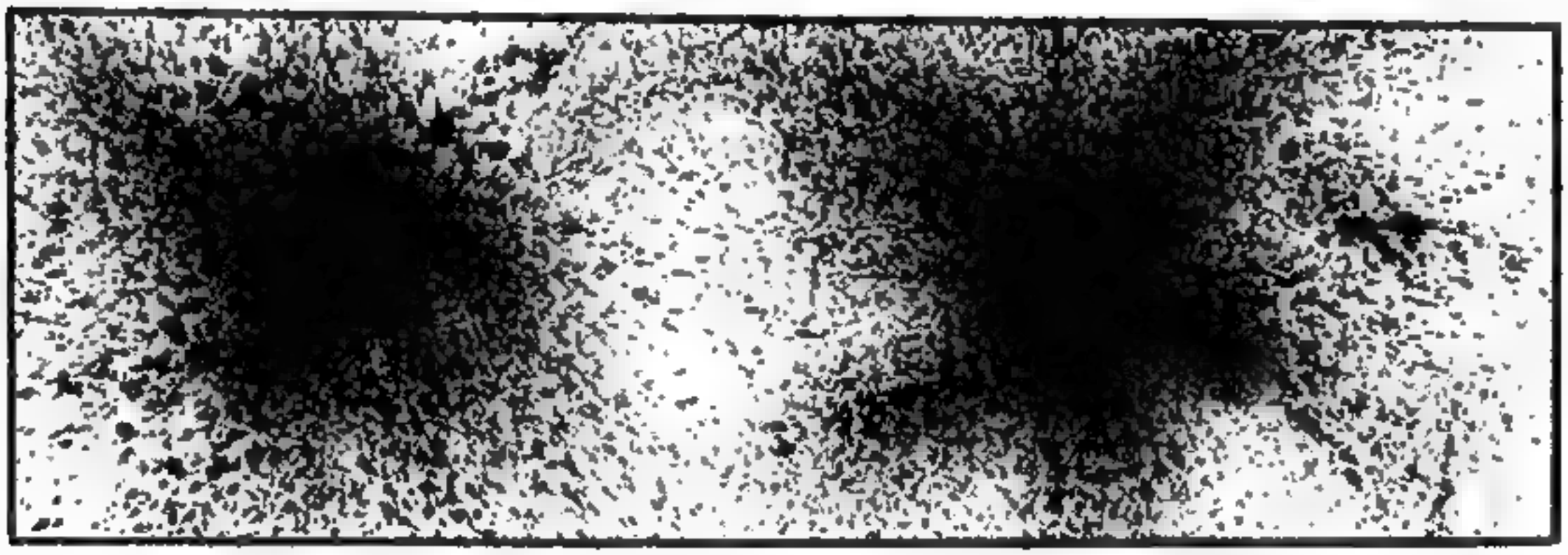
A TRUE WARRIOR WOULD OPENLY DISPLAY HIS SAFE-GUARD SWORD, NOT CONCEAL IT LIKE SOME SEEDY ASSASSIN!

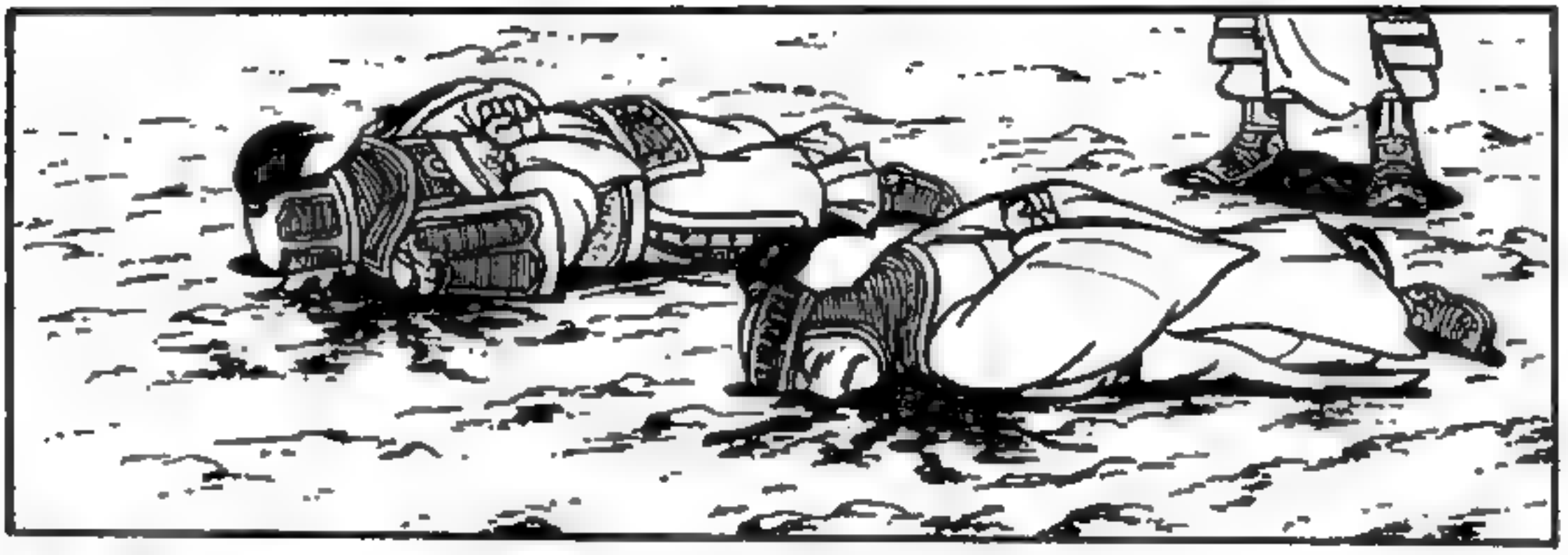
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A WARRIOR HAVING A DAGGER FOR SAFE-GUARD!?

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WERE PLANNING ON KILLING OUR LORD! BEHEAD THEM AT ONCE!

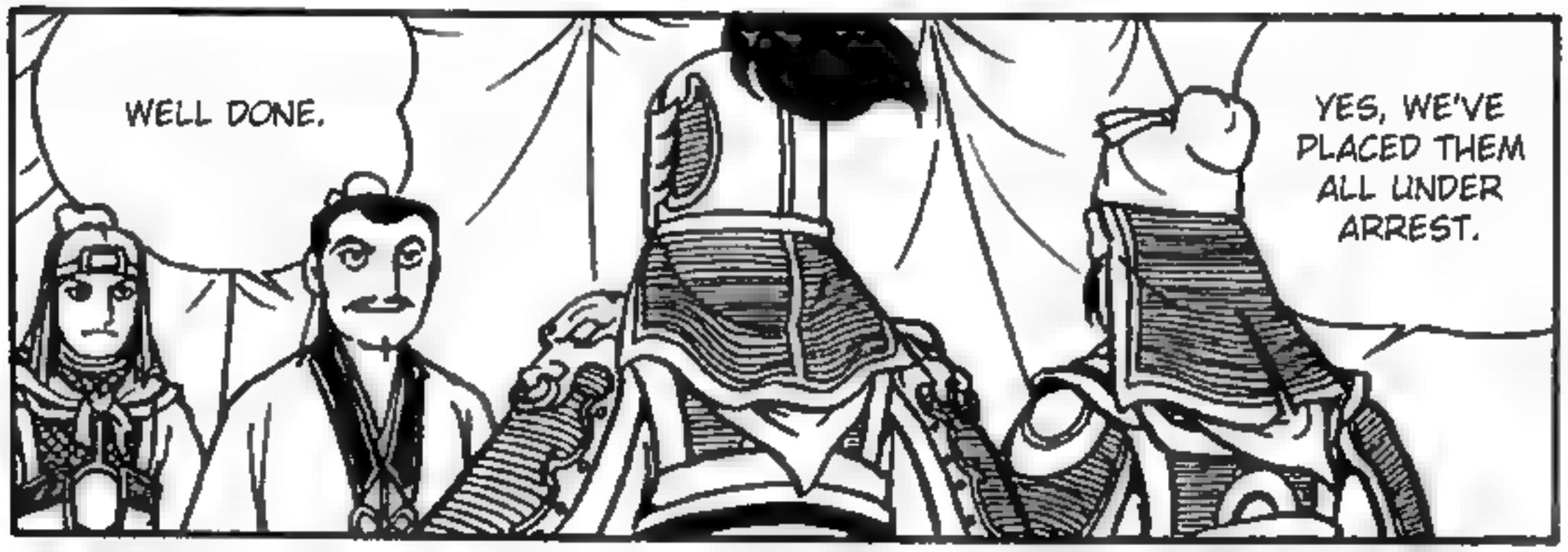

OUT YOU GO!

TASTES LIKE!
LET US SHOW YOU WHAT A JUST SWORD,





HAVE YOU TAKEN CARE OF THEIR GUARDS?

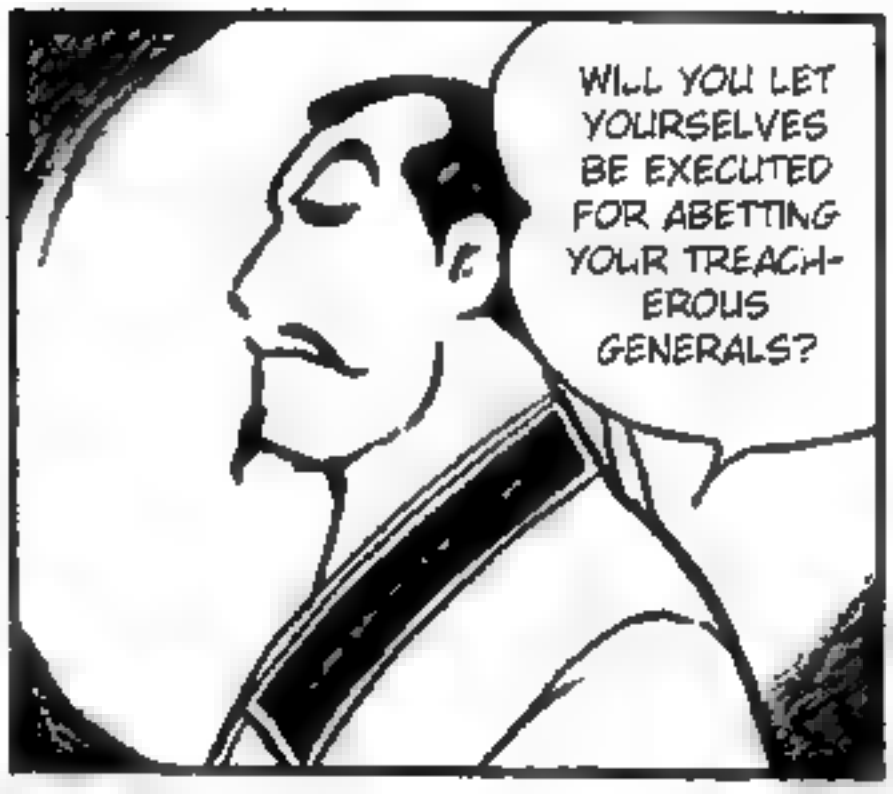

WELL DONE.
YES, WE'VE PLACED THEM ALL UNDER ARREST.

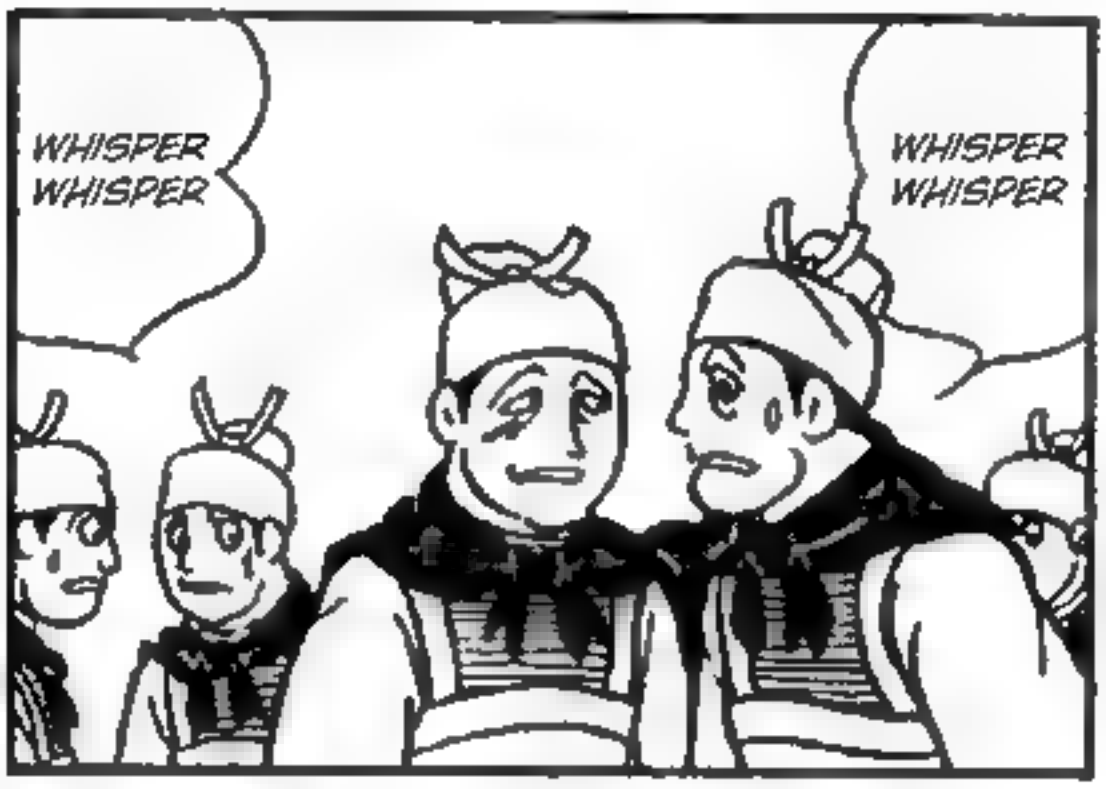
WHA!

YOUR GENERALS GAO PEI AND YANG HUAI HAVE JUST BEEN EXECUTED.

NOW THEN, WHAT WILL YOU MEN DO?

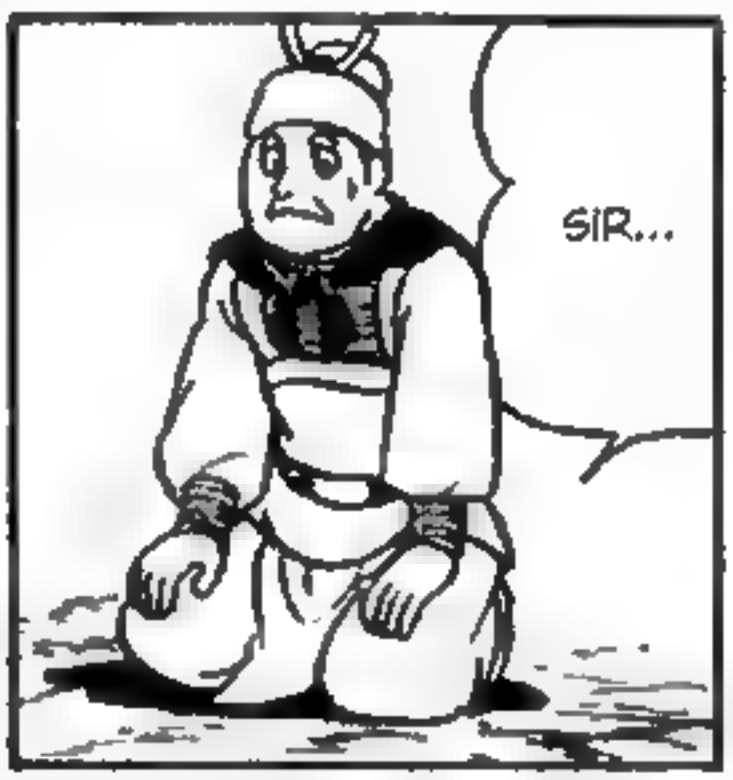
THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE OUR LORD LIU BEI WITH THESE DAGGERS THEY SNUCK INSIDE.


WILL YOU LET YOURSELVES BE EXECUTED FOR ABETTING YOUR TREACH-EROUS GENERALS?


WHISPER WHISPER
WHISPER WHISPER

OR WILL YOU JOIN US, PROVE YOURSELVES IN BATTLE, AND REAP THE REWARDS!?

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL JOIN US?
WE WERE COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT OUR GENERALS WERE ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE THE IMPERIAL UNCLE.


SIR...

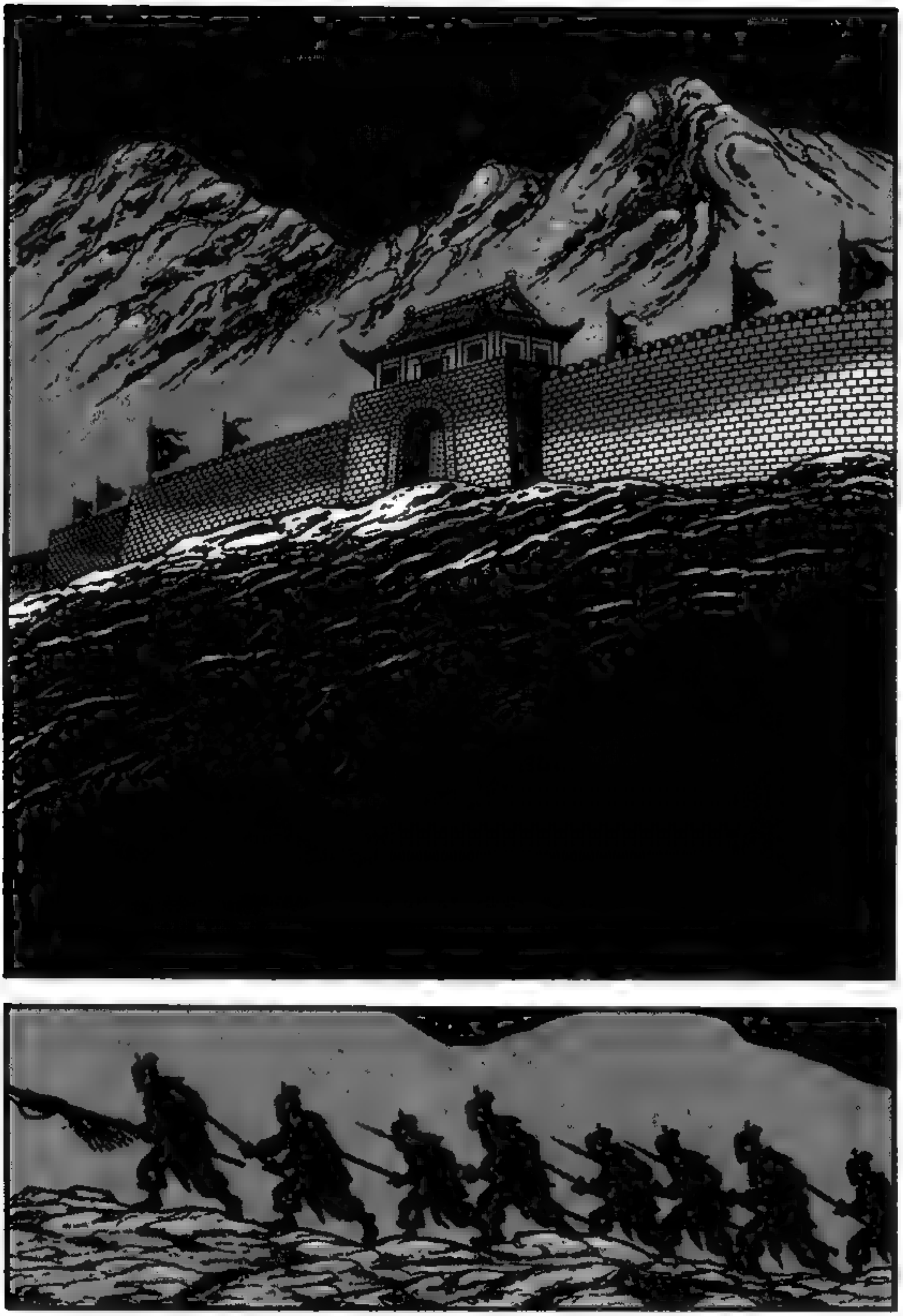
YES?

GOOD, THEN NONE OF YOU WILL BE EXECUTED.

YES, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING AGAINST THE IMPERIAL UNCLE.

YES, SIR.

THESE MEN ARE OUR LOYAL ALLIES. SHARE THE FOOD AND WINE.

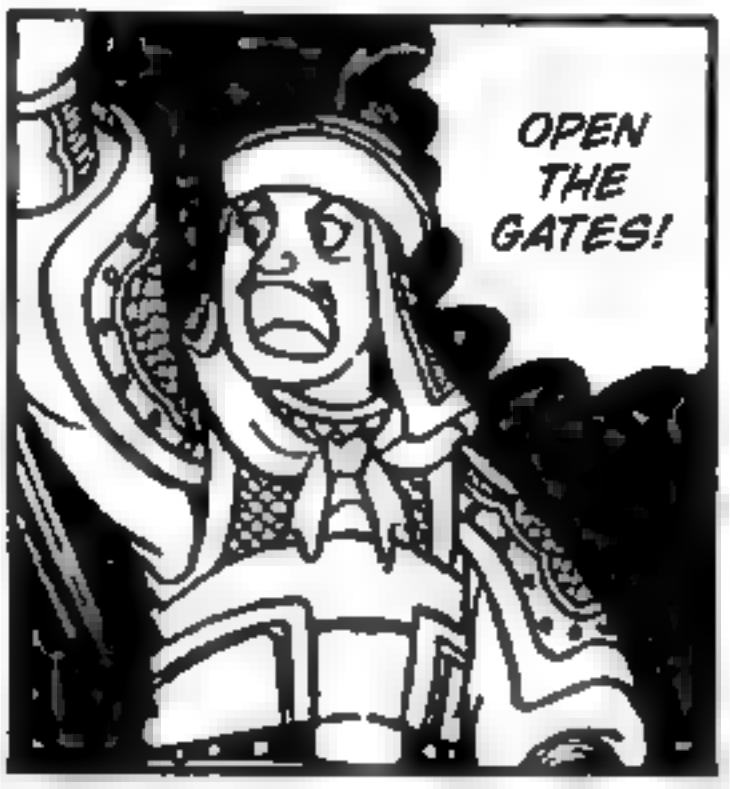


YES, SIR.

ASK THE SOLDIERS INSIDE TO OPEN THE GATES AS I INSTRUCTED YOU. BETRAY US AND YOU'LL SOON FIND ARROWS PIERCING YOUR BACKS.

OPEN THE GATES! GENERALS YANG HUAI AND GAO PEI HAVE RETURNED!

HMM... YEAH, THOSE ARE OUR COMRADES ALRIGHT.


OPEN THE GATES!

CHARGE!

NOW!

AND I AM WEI YAN! STEP FORTH IF YOU DO NOT FEAR DEATH!

I, HUANG ZHONG, WILL GLADLY SLAY ANY WHO RESISTS!

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

AHH!

RUN FOR IT!

AGHH! IT'S LIU BEI'S TROOPS!

AND THUS LIU BEI HAD CAPTURED FU RIVER PASS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

T-THE PASS FELL IN HIS HANDS THAT EASILY...?

WHAT!? LIU BEI HAS CAPTURED FU RIVER PASS!?

I'M AFRAID SO...

WORRY NOT, MY LORD. AS LONG AS THE FORTRESS AT LUO COUNTY IS SECURED, LIU BEI CANNOT REACH CHENGDU, NO MATTER HOW FIERCE OR ABLE HIS SOLDIERS AND GENERALS ARE.

WHAT DO WE DO!?

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

AS YOU WISH, MY LORD.

LIU GUI, LING BAO, DENG XIAN, ZHANG REN. I WANT YOU FOUR GENERALS TO TAKE 50,000 AND DEFEND THE COUNTY OF LUO.

50,000 SHU TROOPS LEFT FOR LUO IMMEDIATELY

I HEAR A FAMOUS RECLUSE KNOWN BY THE TAOIST NAME "HIGH PRIEST OF THE AZURE REALM" LIVES HERE IN THESE JINPING HILLS. HE'S SAID TO BE ABLE TO PREDICT THE FATE OF MEN AND THE COURSE OF THE WORLD. SINCE IT'S ON THE WAY, WHAT SAY WE PAY HIM A VISIT?

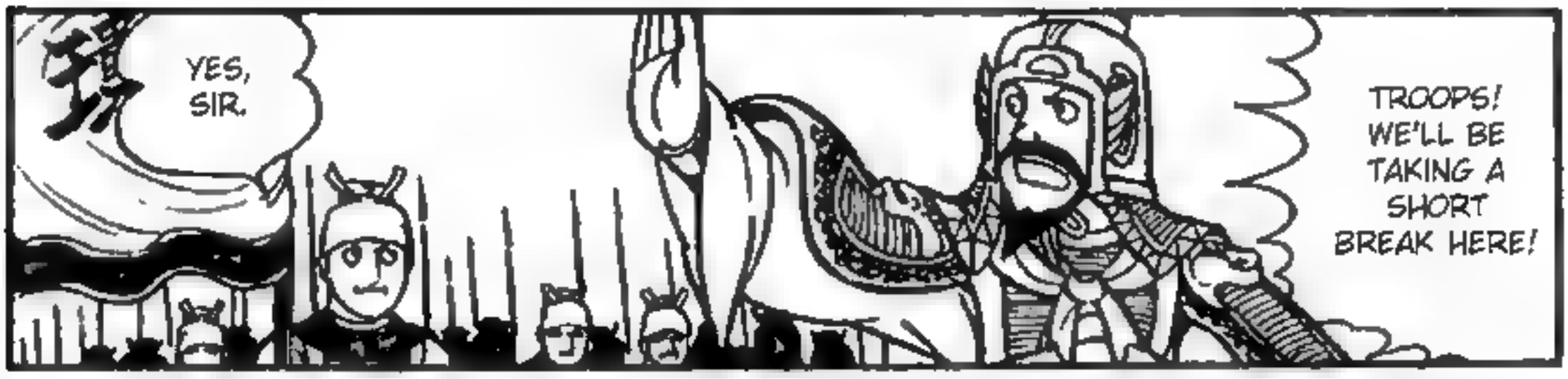
THE FATE OF SHU HANGS IN BALANCE RIGHT NOW AND I'D LIKE TO AVOID ANY MISFORTUNES IF POSSIBLE.

NO NEED TO BE SO CLOSE-MINDED, ZHANG REN.

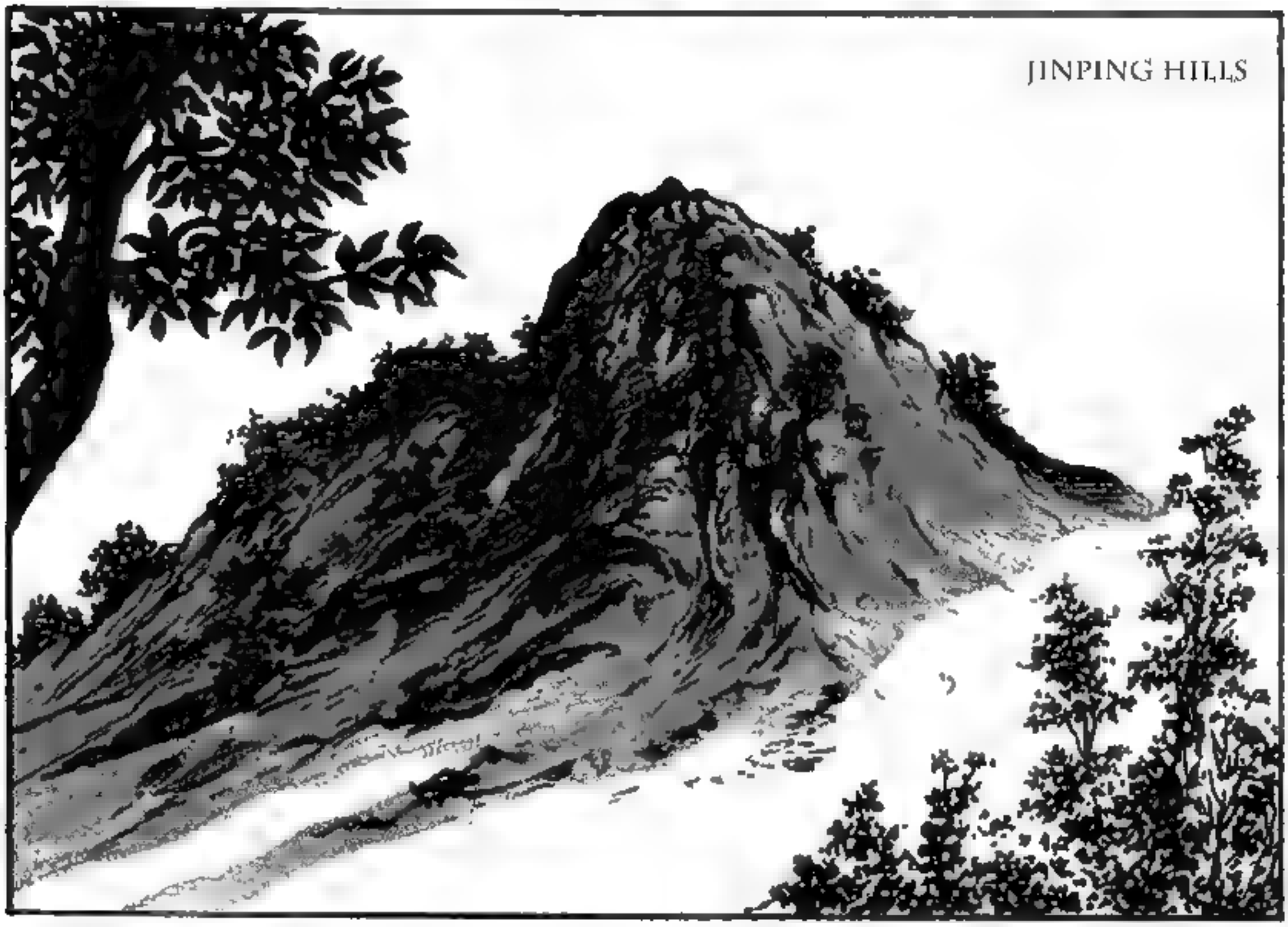
RIDICULOUS! YOU WANT TO GO ASK SOME HERMIT IN THIS TIME OF NATIONAL CRISIS!?

THANKS.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, I DON'T SEE THE HARM IN PAYING A BRIEF VISIT.


YES, SIR.
TROOPS! WE'LL BE TAKING A SHORT BREAK HERE!

LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME THEN.


JINPING HILLS

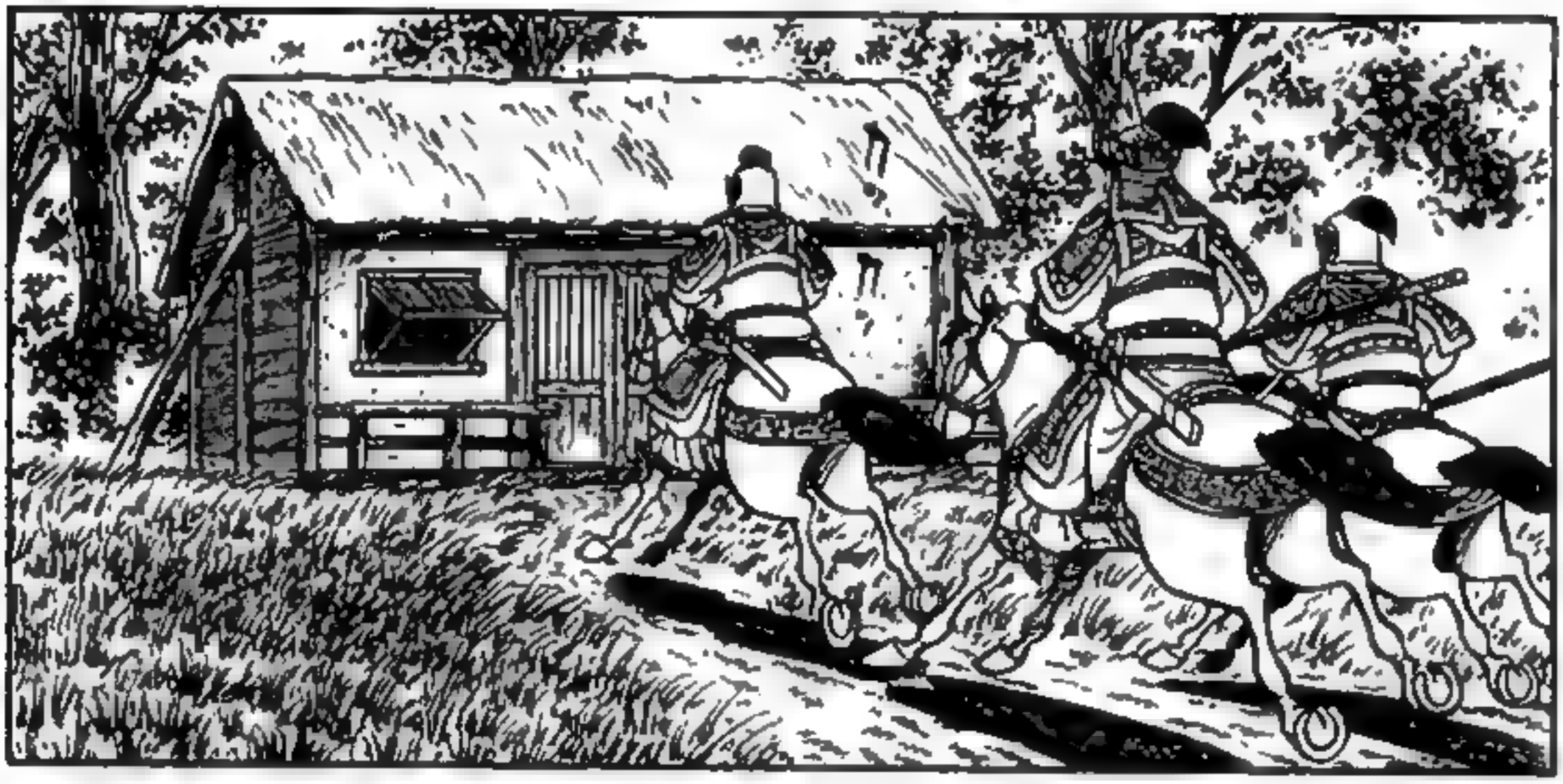
IF YOU FOLLOW THIS TRAIL UP THE HILL, YOU'LL SOON SEE A SMALL HUT. THAT'S WHERE THE HIGH PRIEST LIVES.

OH, YOU MEAN HIGH PRIEST OF THE AZURE REALM?
YOU THERE DO YOU KNOW OF ANY TAOIST PRIESTS LIVING AROUND THESE PARTS?

THANK YOU.

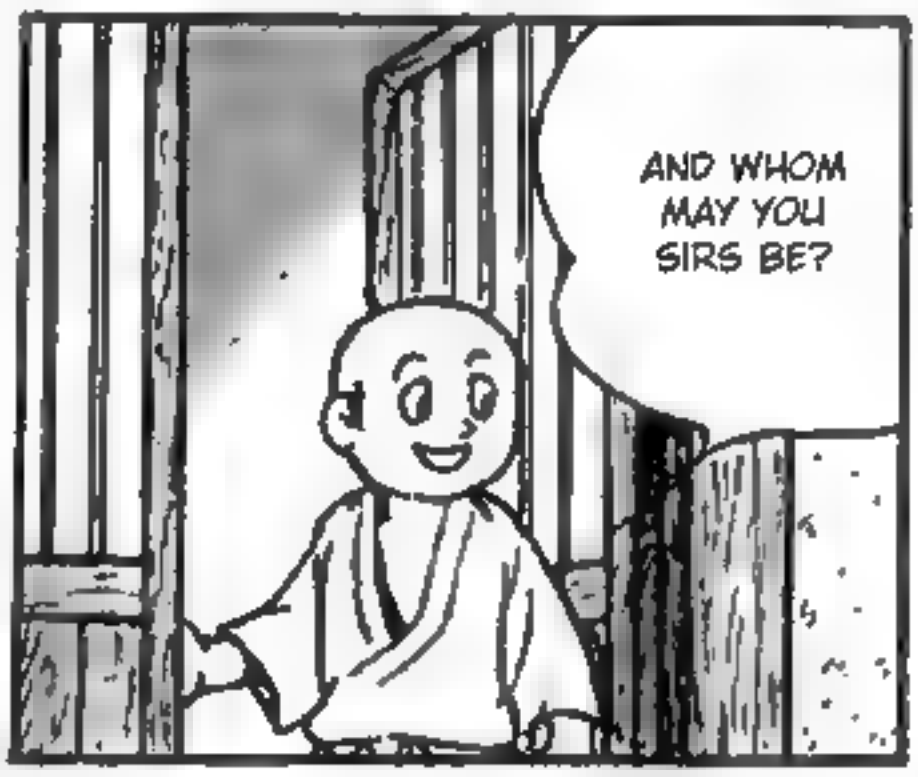
THAT MUST BE IT.

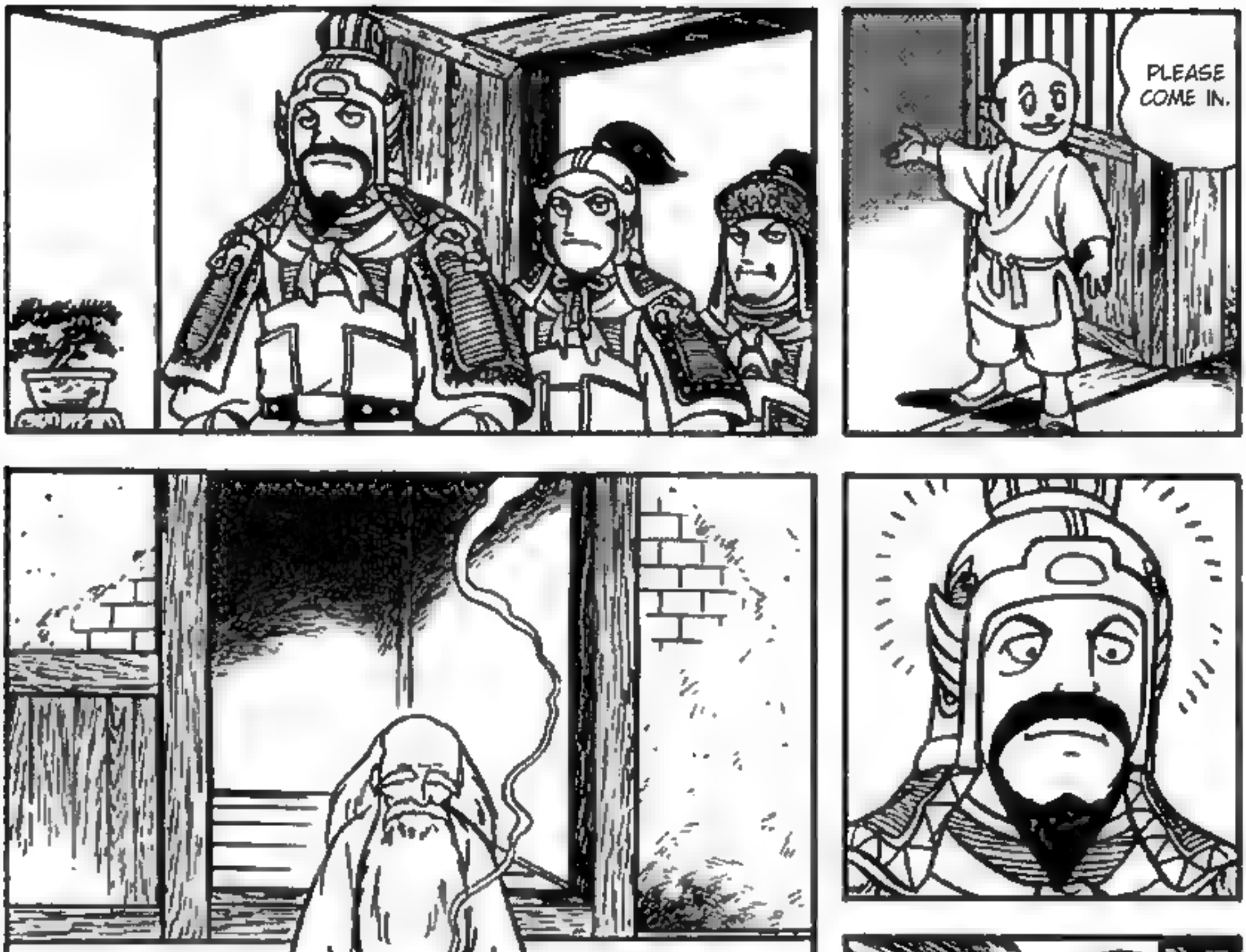
YES.



IS ANYONE HOME?

I AM LIU GUI, AND THESE ARE MY COMRADES LING BAO, ZHANG REN, AND DENG XIAN. WE COME TODAY TO SEE THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE AZURE REALM.


AND WHOM MAY YOU SIRS BE?


PLEASE COME IN.
HIGH PRIEST, WE COME BEFORE YOU TODAY BECAUSE WE WISH TO KNOW SHU'S FATE.

PLEASE, SIR. WE'VE TRAVELLED A GREAT DISTANCE, AND WE HOPE IT WON'T HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

HOW COULD AN OLD HERMIT LIKE ME KNOW OF SUCH THINGS?

YES, MASTER.

FETCH ME THE PAPER AND BRUSH.

?

THAT WHICH IS ORDAINED IS INEVITA-BLE.

AND WHAT OF OUR FATES?

Dragon to the left, Phoenix to the right. The latter flies West only to plummet while the former soars ever higher. To gain one is to lose another. Such is the natural order. Act when chance offers, lest fall into the Nine Springs of the Underworld.

HMM...

THANK YOU, PRIEST.

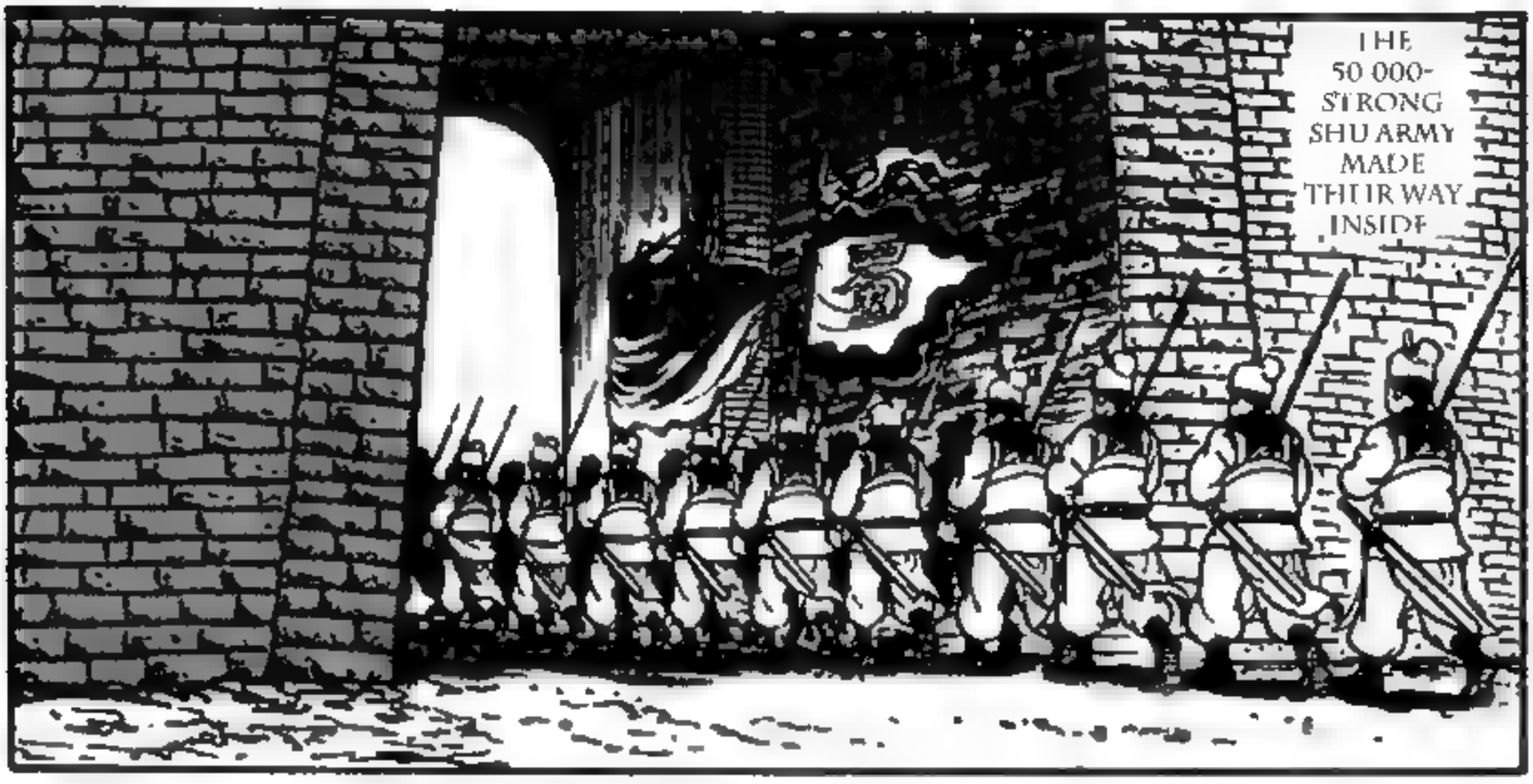
HAHAHA! I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO SUPERSTITIOUS, LIU GUI!

THE PREDIC-TION DOES NOT SOUND FAVOURABLE TO SHU.

THE WORDS OF A MAD HERMIT CONTAINS AS MUCH WISDOM AS A RAVING MUTT'S BARK.

PAY NO HEED TO IT, FRIEND. NOW LET'S HURRY BACK.

THE FORTRESS AT LUO WAS LOCATED RIGHT BETWEEN FU RIVER PASS AND CHENGDU.


THE 50 000-STRONG SHU ARMY MADE THEIR WAY INSIDE

I SUGGEST WE ADOPT A PINCER-DEFENCE OF SORTS, WHERE TWO OF US WILL DEFEND THIS PASS, WHILE THE OTHER TWO WILL FORTIFY UP ON THE HILLS NEARBY.

CHENGDU WILL FALL IF THE ENEMIES GAIN CONTROL OF THIS PASS. THUS, IT IS CRITICAL WE STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

LING BAO AND I'LL GO UP TO THE HILLS THEN.

GOOD IDEA.

LEADING 20 000 SOLDIERS LING BAO AND DENG XIAN SET UP 2 SEPARATE CAMPS UP ON HILLS JUST 60LI AWAY FROM THE PASS

FU RIVER PASS

YES, SIR.

LING BAO AND DENG XIAN HAVE SET UP CAMPS UP ON THE HILLS?

TAKING CARE OF THEM WILL BE THE FIRST STEP TO CAPTURING LUO.

HMM...

JUST LEAVE IT TO ME, MY LORD.

WHO WISHES TO TRY THEIR HAND AT THIS TASK?

YES, SIR.

VERY WELL, HUANG ZHONG. SHOULD YOU SUCCEED, I WILL REWARD YOU GREATLY.

I FEAR HUANG ZHONG MAY BE A LITTLE TOO OVER THE HILL FOR SUCH A CHALLENGING MISSION.

WAIT, MY LORD!

I BELIEVE I'D BE MORE SUITABLE FOR THIS TASK.

LING BAO AND DENG XIAN ARE FAMED GENERALS OF SHU. I'M MERELY WORRIED THAT YOUR BODY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR YOUTH.

OUR LORD HAS ALREADY GIVEN ME PERMISSION. WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE FOR INTERFERING!?

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED! WHY DON'T WE SEE HOW MUCH YOUR SKILLS CAN STACK UP WITH MINE!

YOU DARE THINK I'VE OUTLIVED MY USE AS A WARRIOR!?

IF IT'S A DUEL YOU WANT, YOU GOT IT, OLD MAN.

A GENERAL WHO'S TOO IMMATURE TO REALIZE EVEN THAT IS NOT CAPABLE OF THIS TASK!

INTERNAL SQUAB-BLES WILL ONLY CAUSE OUR RUIN!

THAT'S ENOUGH!

NOW FROM WHAT I HEAR, LING BAO AND DENG XIAN HAVE SET UP TWO SEPARATE CAMPS ON EACH FLANK. WHY DON'T WE PAIR HUANG ZHONG WITH LING BAO AND WEI YAN WITH DENG XIAN? WHICHEVER GENERAL THAT CAPTURES THE ENEMY CAMP FIRST CAN BE REWARDED.

ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND MY LORD'S OBJECTIONS, TO DENY THEM BOTH OF THIS MISSION WILL ONLY HARM OUR MORALE.

HMM...

FINE, YOU WILL DO AS PANG TONG SUGGESTED.

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

I'LL DEFEND IT IN THE MEANTIME.

WHAT ABOUT THIS PASS THEN?

THOSE TWO MIGHT STILL CONTINUE TO QUARREL. IT WOULD BE BEST IF MY LORD FOLLOWS AFTER THEM TO PREVENT ANY SUCH CONFLICTS.

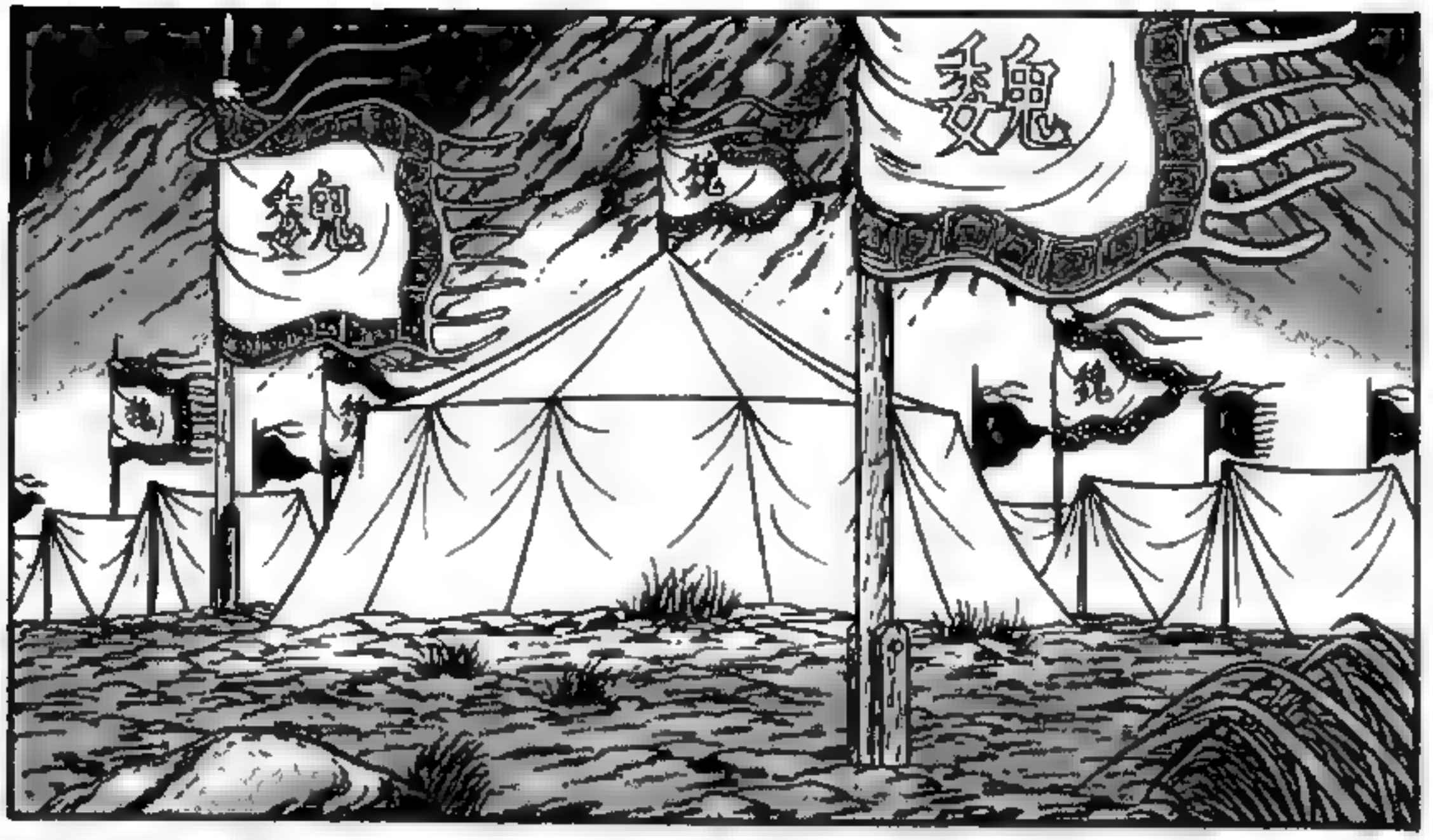
YES, SIR.

LIU FENG, GUAN PING. YOU TWO WILL COME WITH ME.

ALRIGHT.

TAKING 5000 SOLDIERS AS WELL AS HIS ADOPTED SON AND NEPHEW, LIU FENG AND GUAN PING, LIU BEI HEADED TO LUO.

TO STEAL A MARCH


曹
曹
劉
ACCORDING TO MY REPORTS, THEY'LL BE EATING AN EARLY BREAKFAST AT THE DAY'S 4TH DRUM BEATING, AND STARTING THEIR ADVANCE BY THE TIME OF THE 5TH DRUM BEATING.
YES, SIR.
HAVE HUANG ZHONG'S TROOPS FINISHED SETTING UP CAMP?
YES, SIR!
THEN LET US HAVE OUR MEAL AT THE TIME OF THE 2ND DRUM BEATING, AND START OUR MARCH BY THE 3RD DRUM BEATING.
I SEE...

YES, SIR.
I'LL SHOW THAT OLD MAN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE!
AND CAPTURING A SINGLE CAMP IS HARDLY A MERITORIOUS DEED. WE WILL MARCH TO LING BAO'S CAMP AND CAPTURE THAT AS WELL.

START MARCHING!

SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLANS. WE'LL BE ATTACKING LING BAO'S CAMP, THEN DENG XIAN'S.

GENERAL, I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE WAY TO DENG XIAN'S CAMP.

HUFF
HUFF

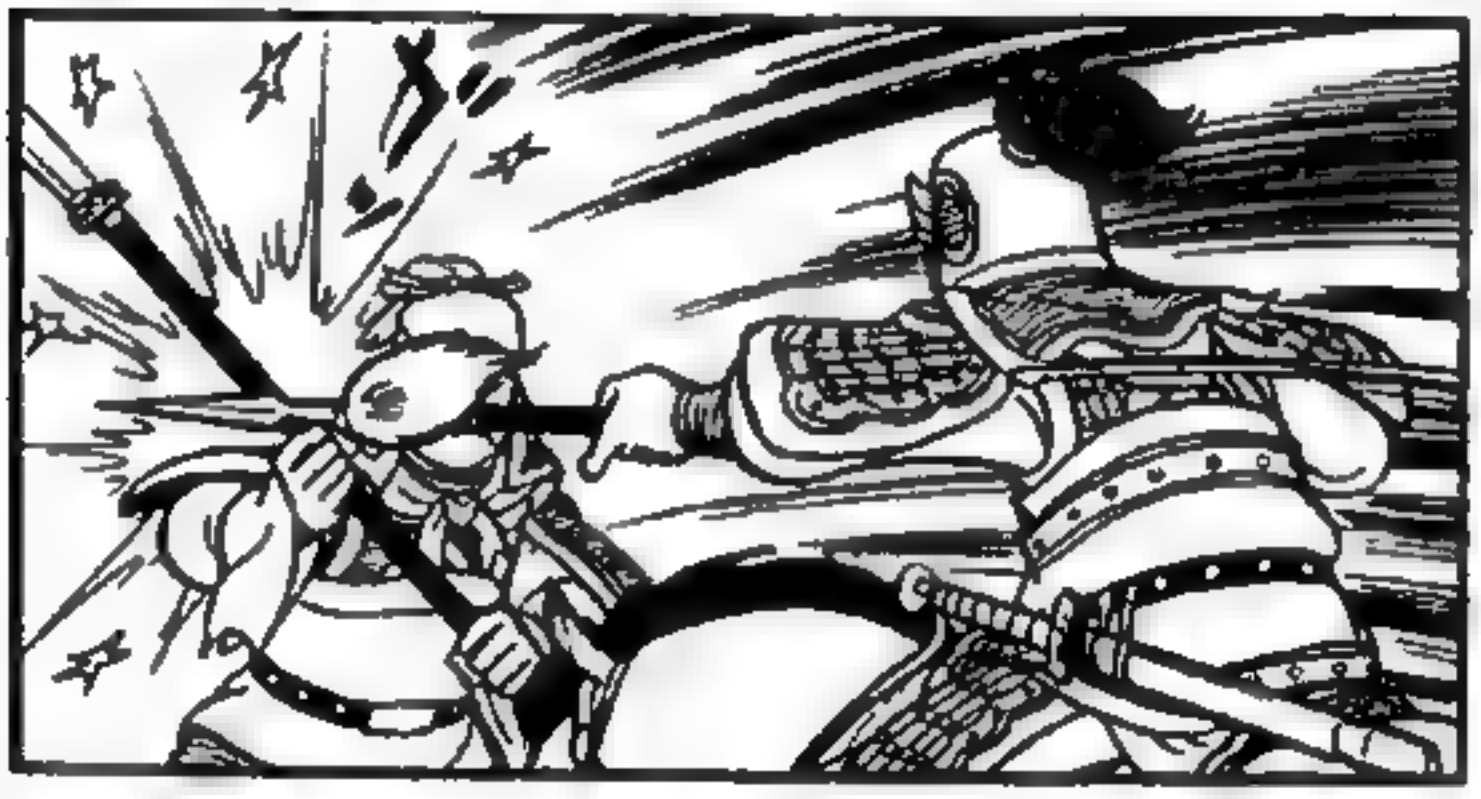
PANT
PANT

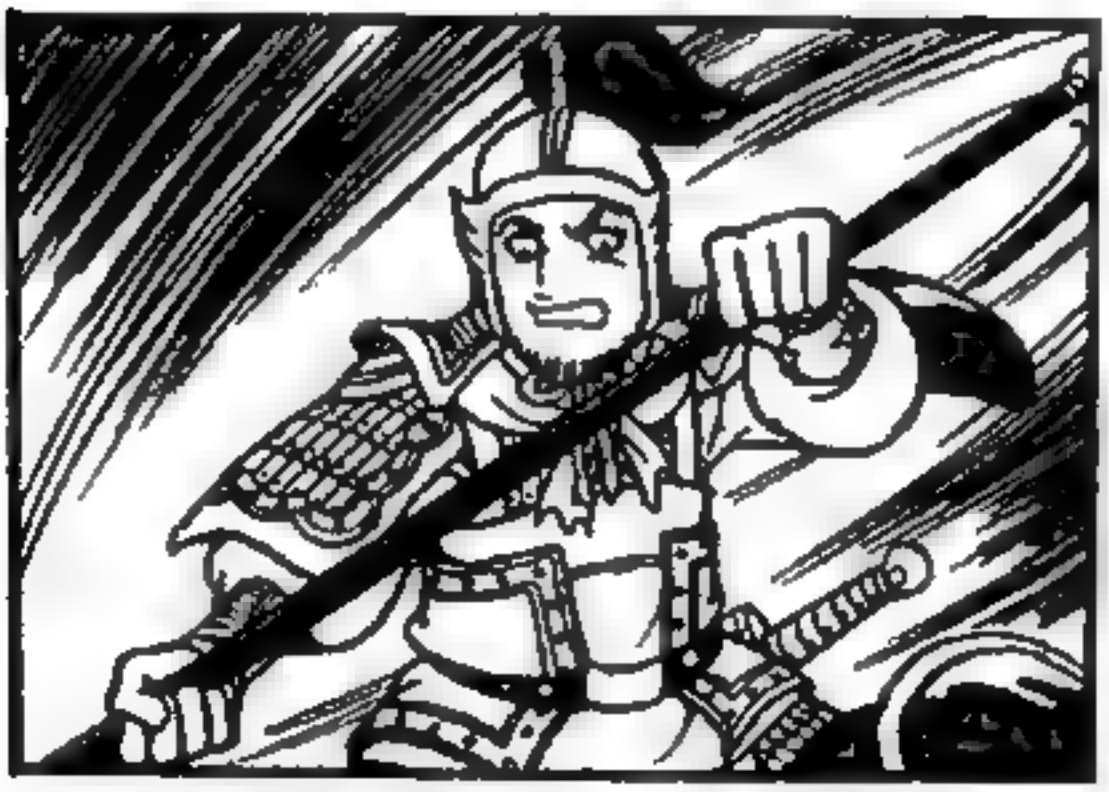
ATTACK!

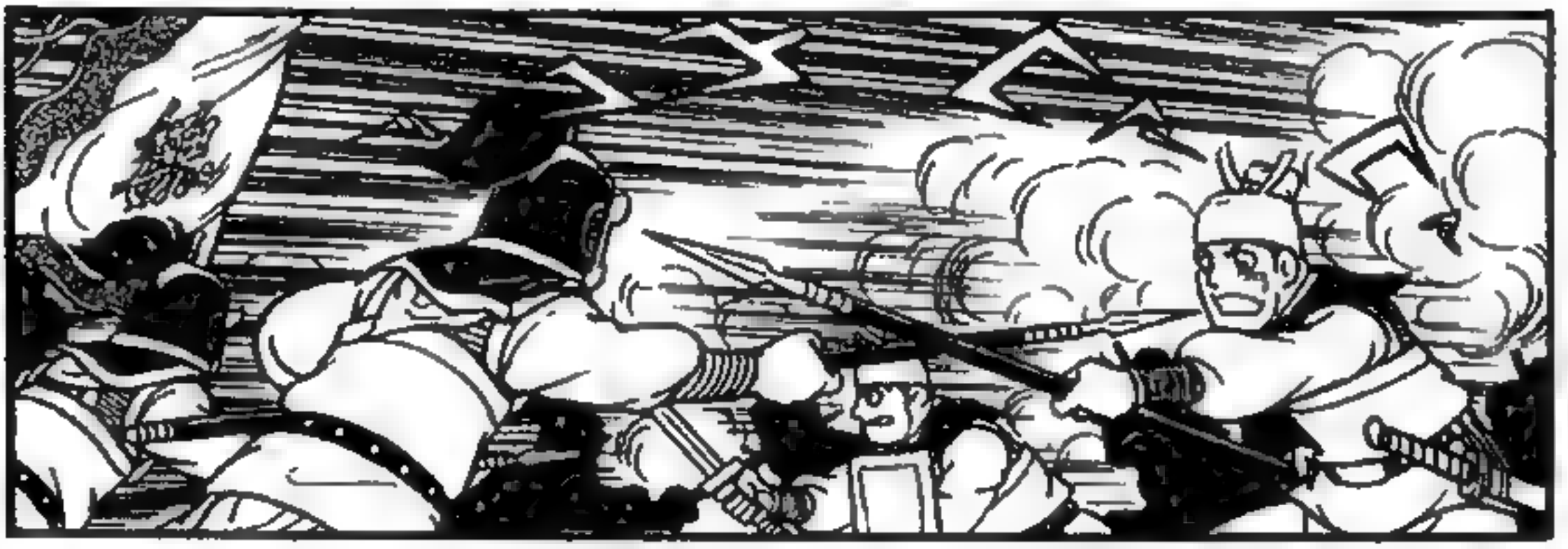
GOOD, THE ENEMY SEEMS TO BE STILL FAST ASLEEP.
THERE IT IS!

THEN FIGHT ME, LING BAO!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, WEI YAN!





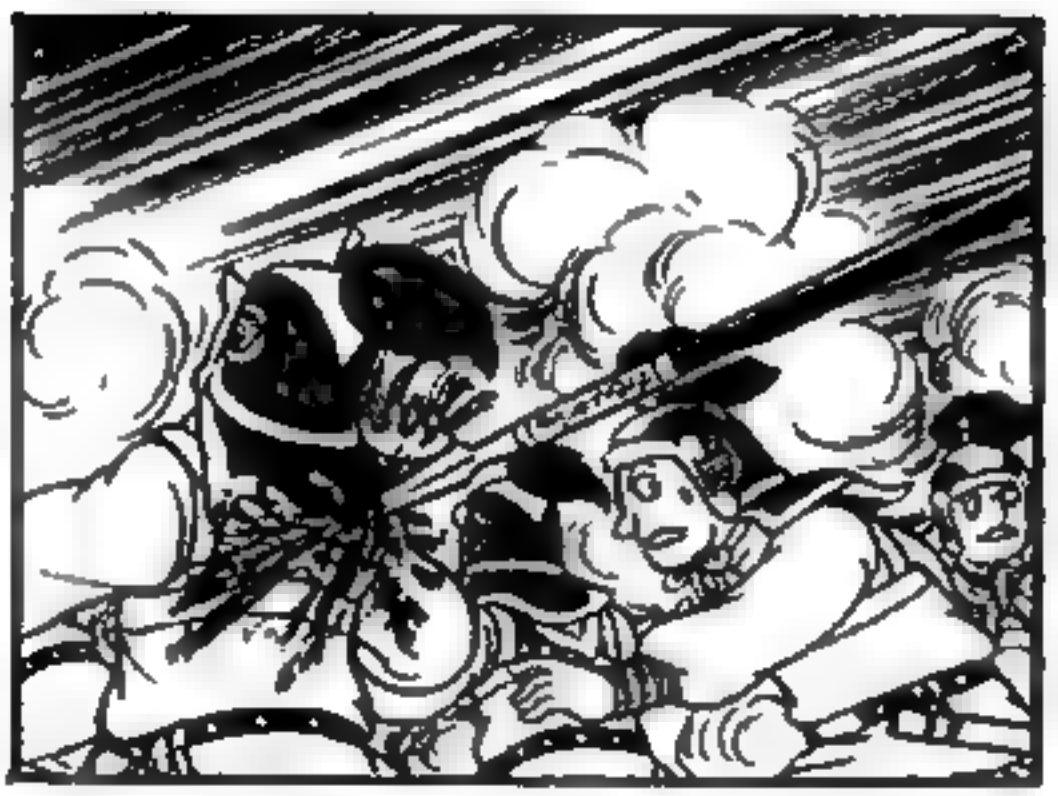


HUH!?

HM?

WE'VE BEEN OUT-FLANKED!
AN AMBUSH!

CURSES!



RETREAT!

JUST YOU WAIT. I'LL RETURN IN DUE TIME TO TAKE YOUR HEAD!

AH!

RUNNING AWAY, WEI YAN!?

*DENG (鄧)

DENG XIAN'S TROOPS ARE HERE TOO!?

鄧

NOW TAKE MY SPEAR, WEI YAN!

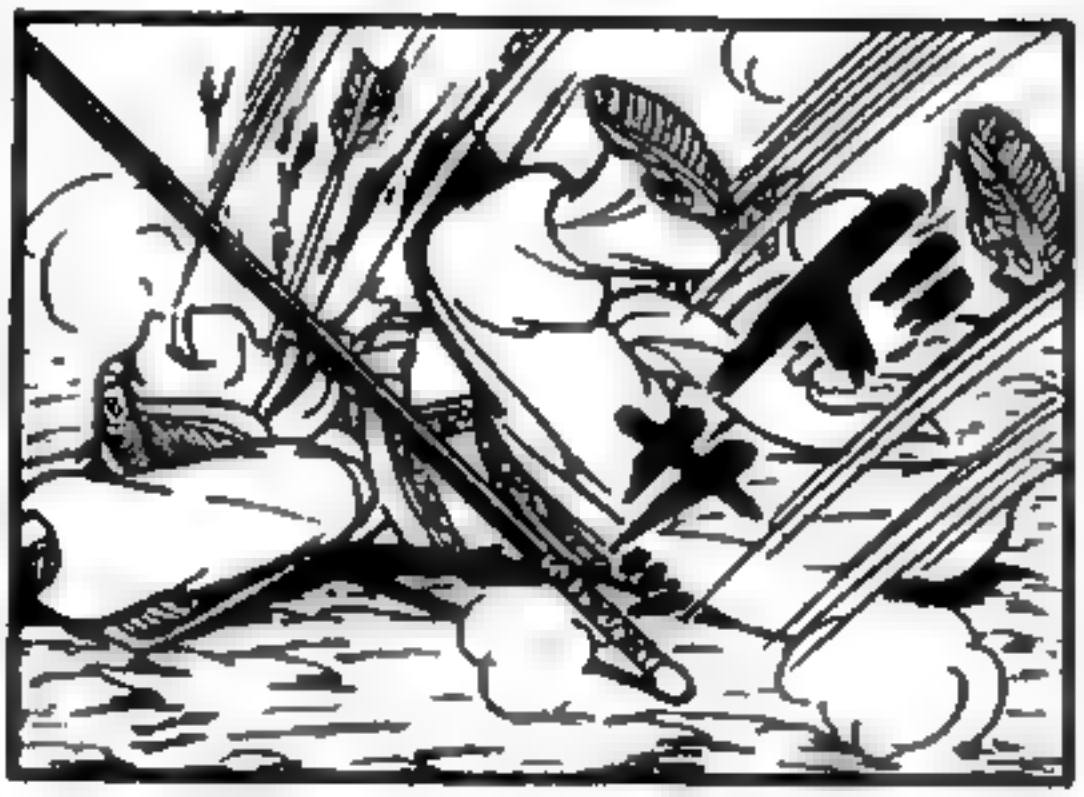
I'VE HAD MY SCOUTS KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CAMP. WHEN I SAW THAT YOU WERE SECRETLY MOVING IN ON LING BAO'S CAMP, I LED MY TROOPS OUT HERE TO COMPLETELY SURROUND YOU.

AGHH!

SAY YOUR PRAYERS!

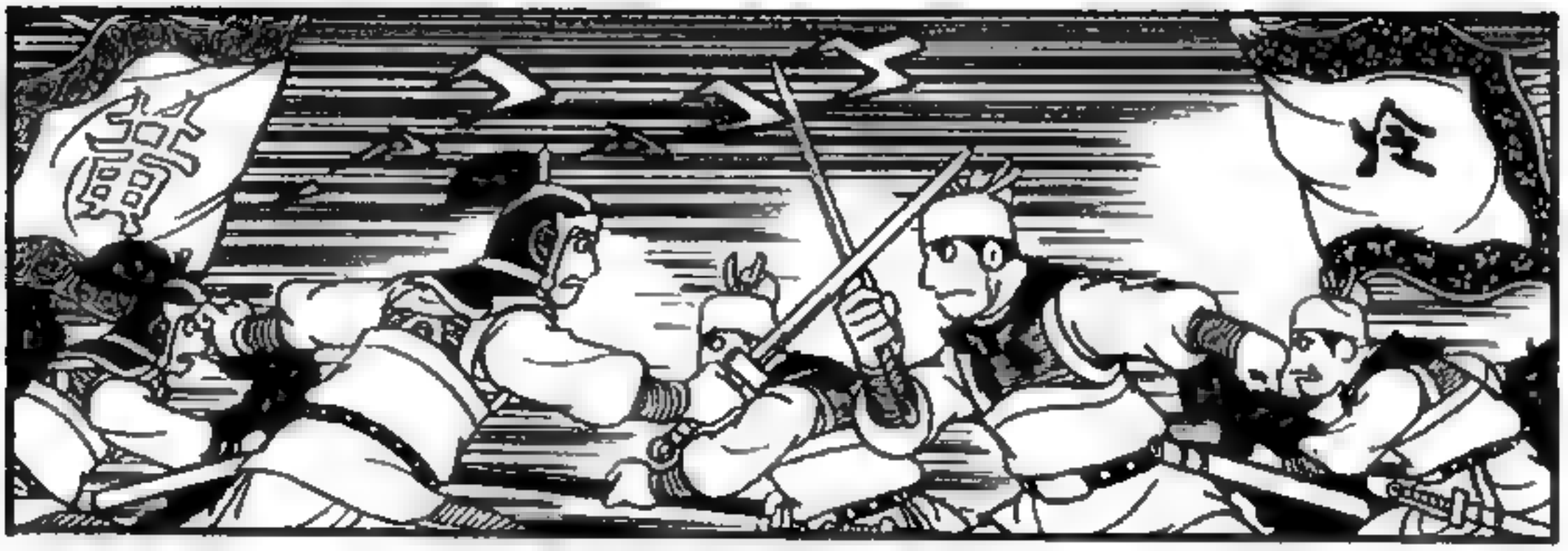
ヒュン

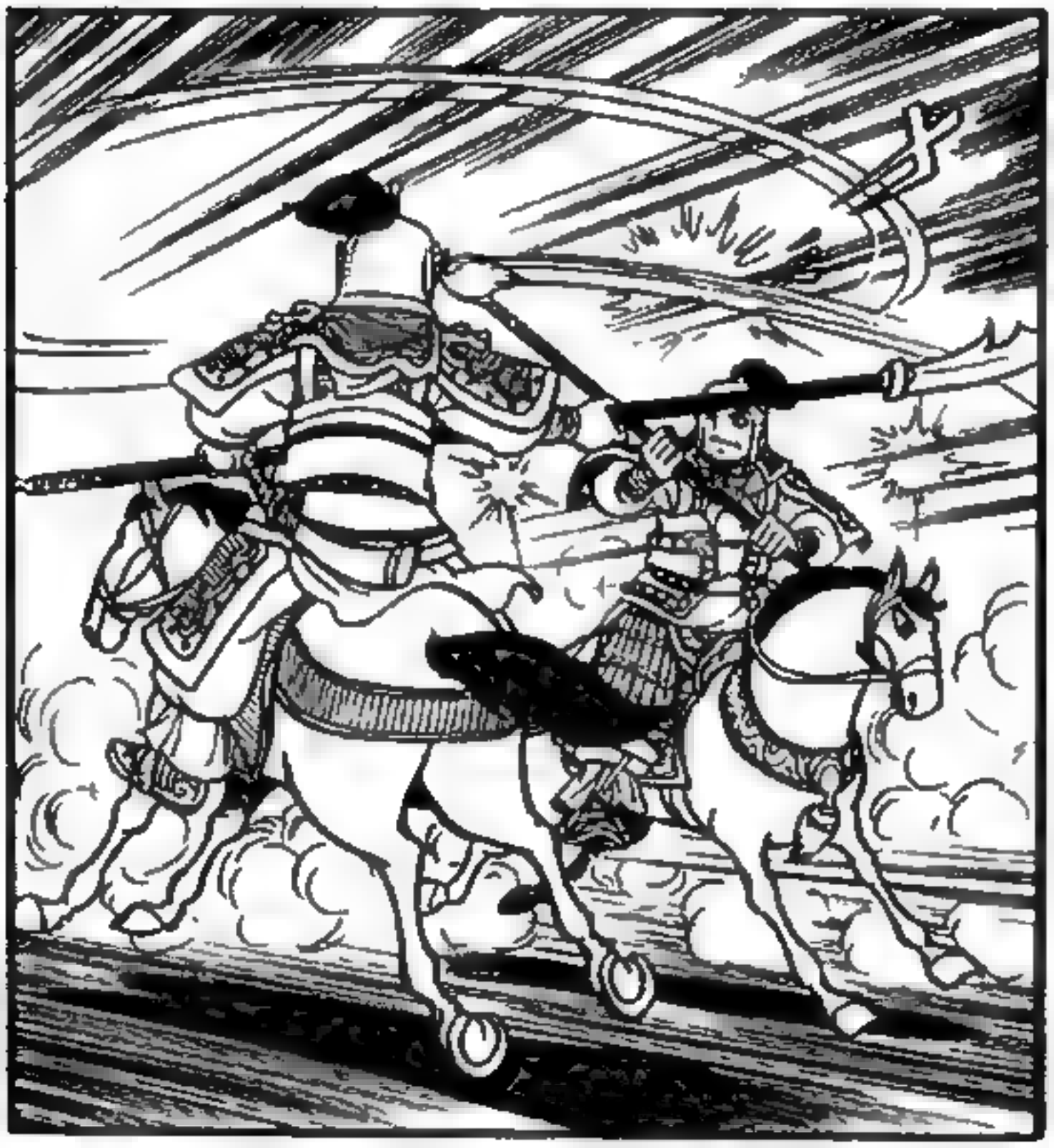
HM?



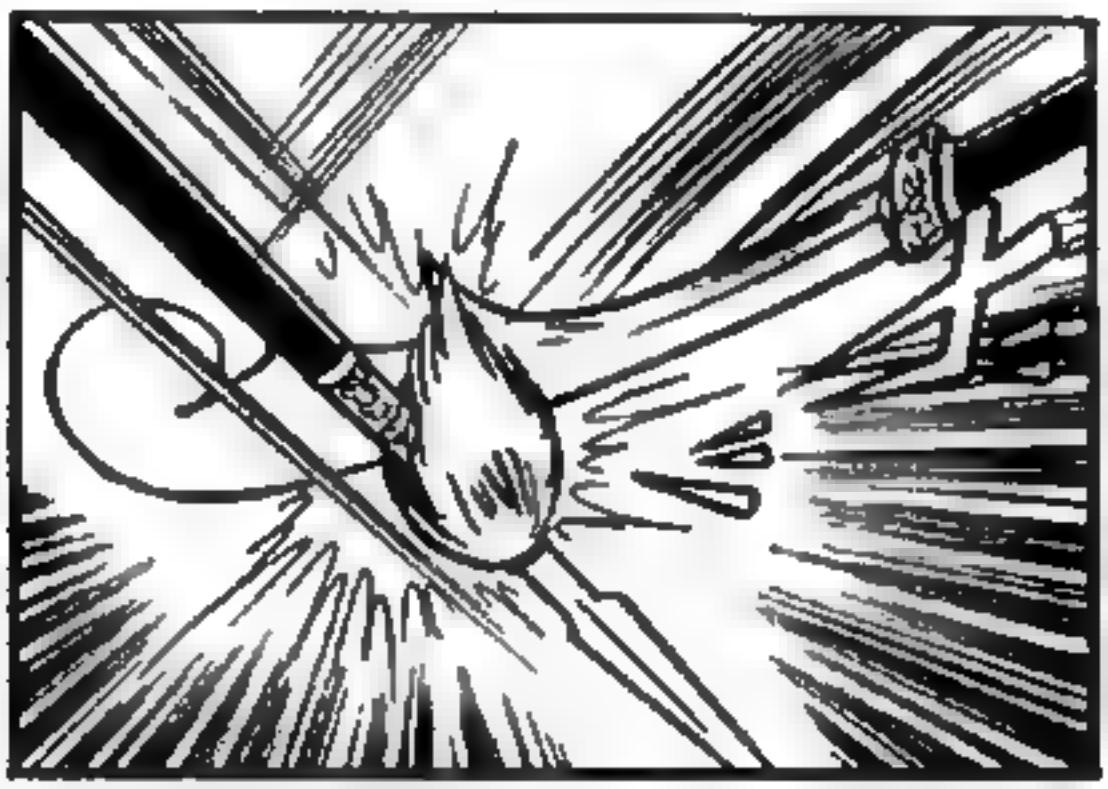
WAVER NOT, WEI YAN! HUANG ZHONG HAS ARRIVED!

ATTACK!



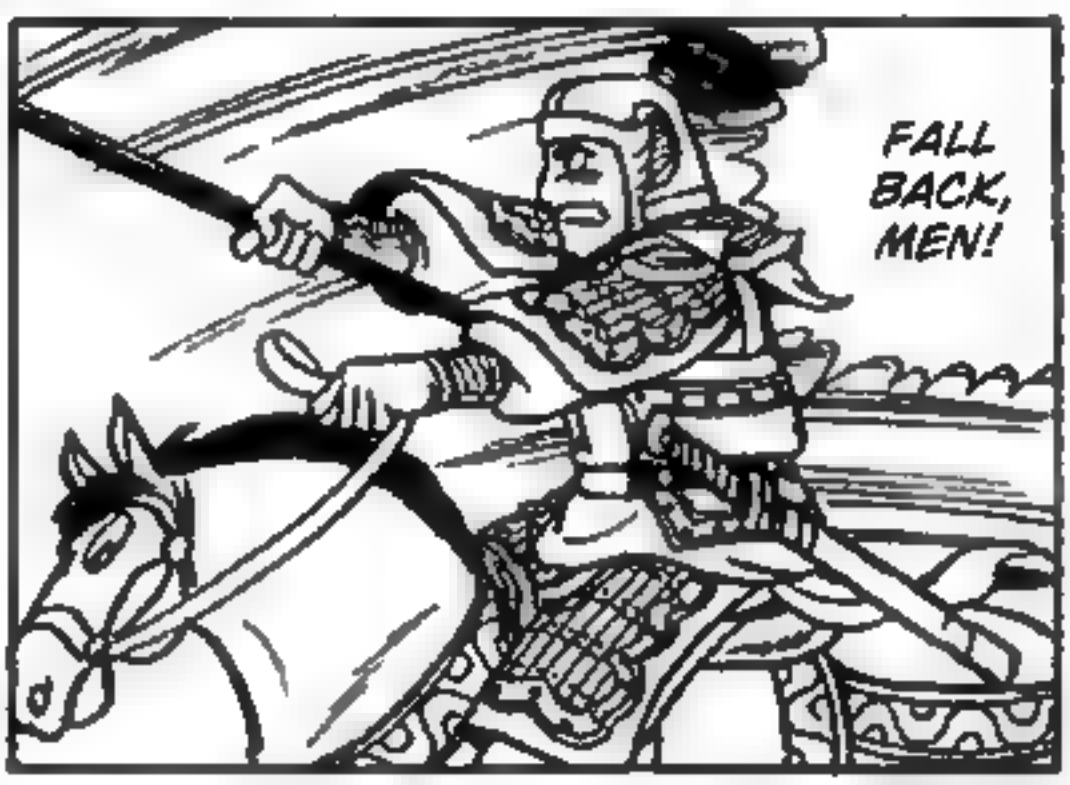


COME AT ME, LING BAO! I, HUANG ZHONG, CHALLENGE THEE!



W-WHAT STRENGTH...

BUT SIR! THERE ARE TOO MANY ENEMIES BLOCKING THE WAY BACK TO OUR CAMP!


FALL BACK, MEN!

FINE, THEN WE'LL RETREAT TO DENG XIAN'S CAMP!

AH!

WHA?

SIR! LOOK AT THE BANNER!

IT'S ME, LING BAO! WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE!

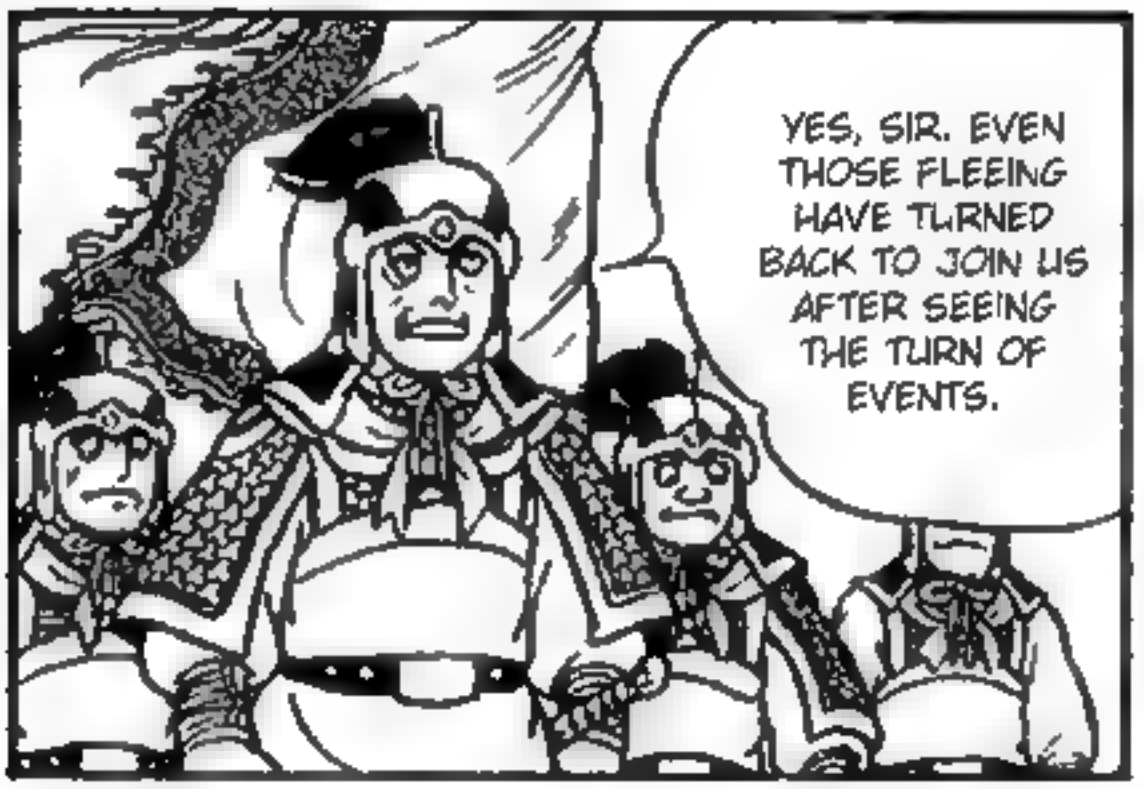
*LIU (劉)

W-WHEN DID LIU BEI...!?

WHILE DENG XIAN HAD LED HIS TROOPS OUT TO ATTACK WEI YAN, LIU BEI HAD QUICKLY CAPTURED THE EMPTY CAMP.

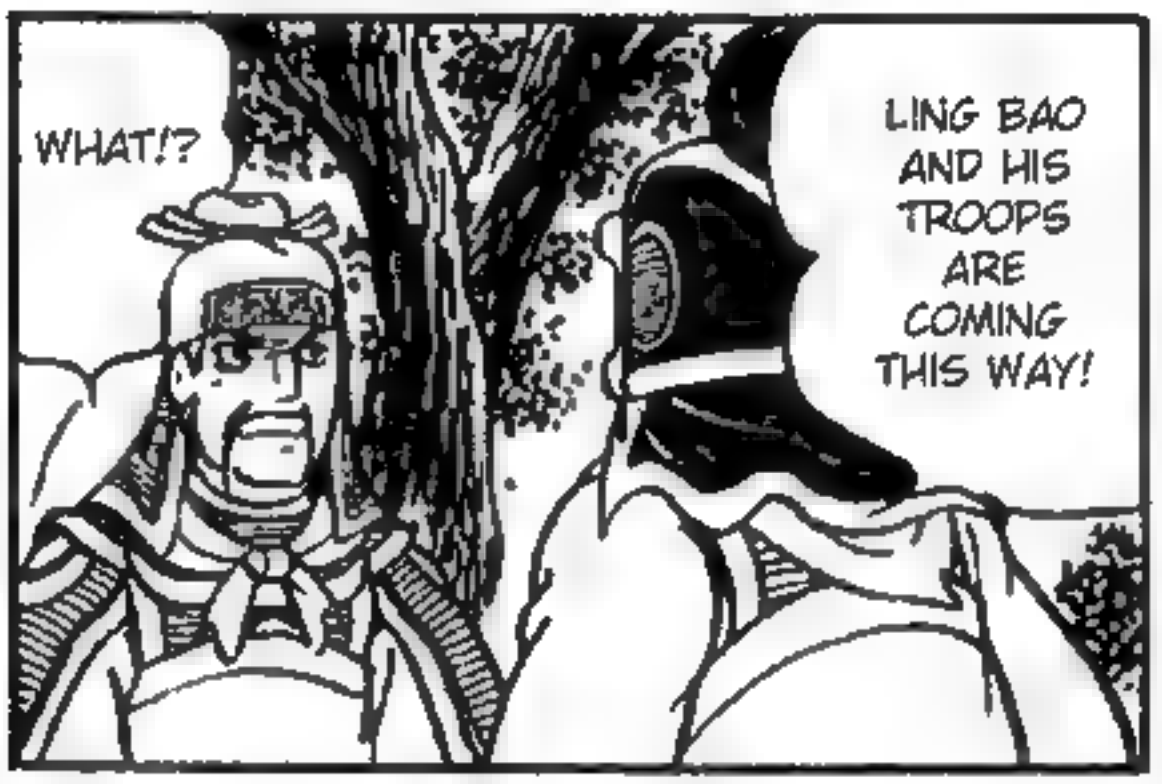
WE MUST RETREAT BACK TO LUO FORTRESS!

DAMN... I NEVER EXPECTED DENG XIAN WOULD HIT MY REAR...


YES, SIR. EVEN THOSE FLEEING HAVE TURNED BACK TO JOIN US AFTER SEEING THE TURN OF EVENTS.

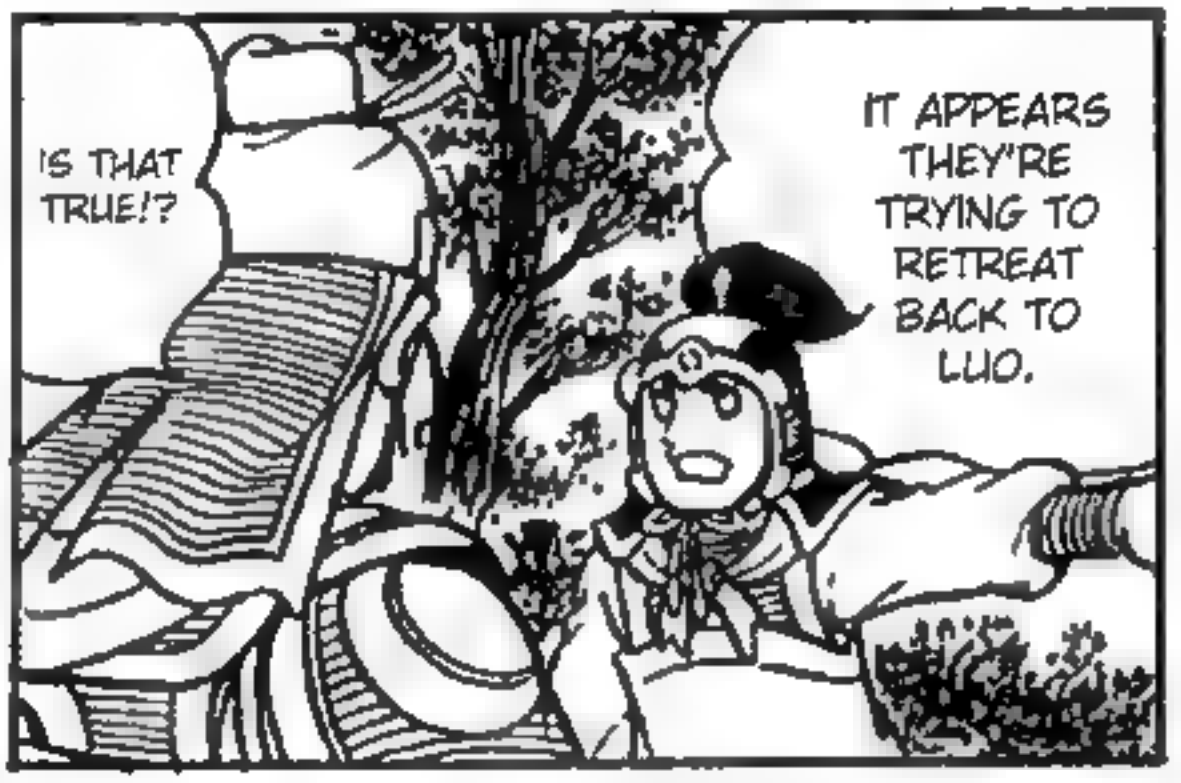
HAVE OUR TROOPS REORGAN-IZED!?

AT THIS RATE, HUANG ZHONG WILL REAP THE AWARDS...


WHAT!?
LING BAO AND HIS TROOPS ARE COMING THIS WAY!

SIR!

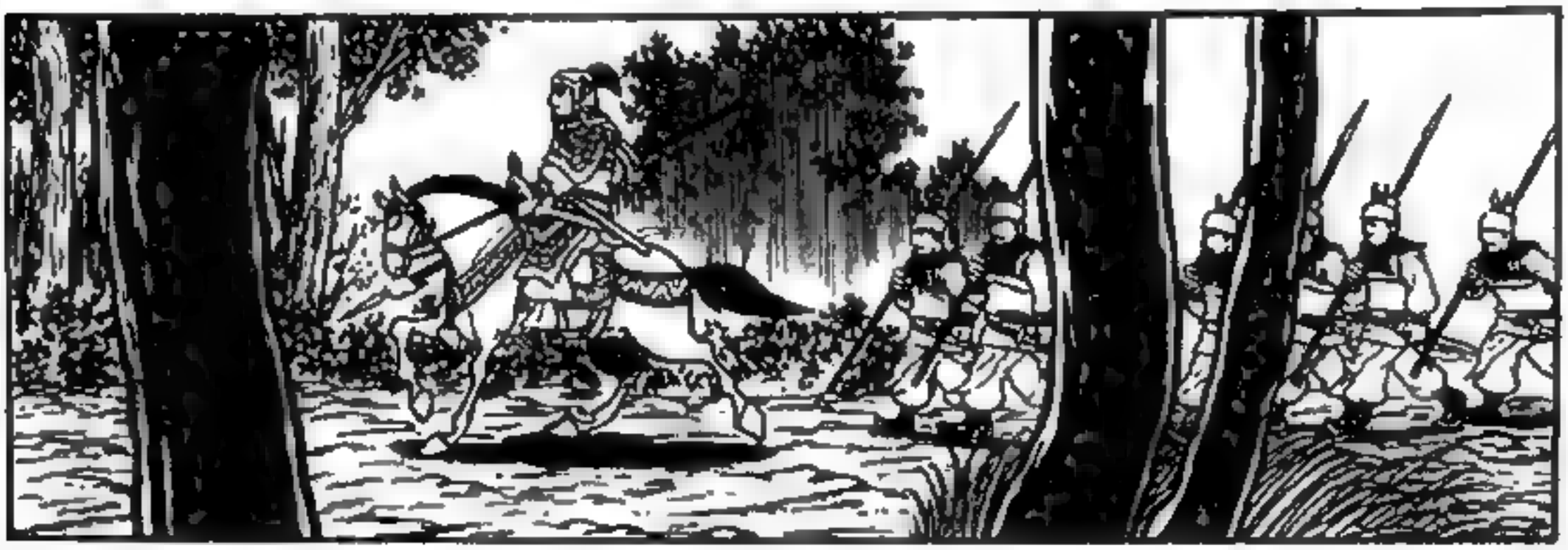
PREPARE FOR AN AMBUSH!


IS THAT TRUE!?
IT APPEARS THEY'RE TRYING TO RETREAT BACK TO LUO.

3

YES, THAT'S LING BAO WITHOUT A DOUBT.

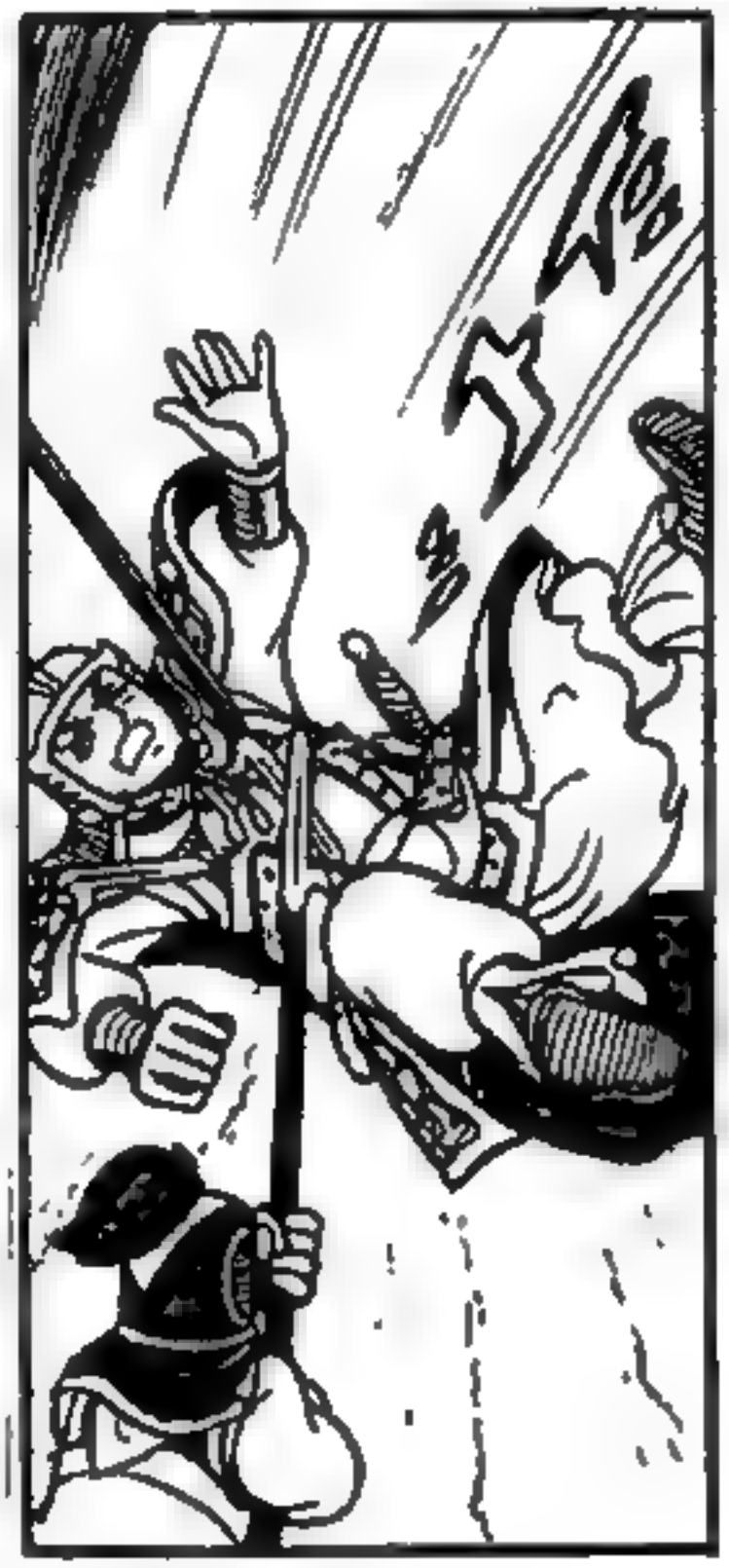
HAHA, IT SEEMS LADY LUCK HASN'T ABAN-DONED ME YET.



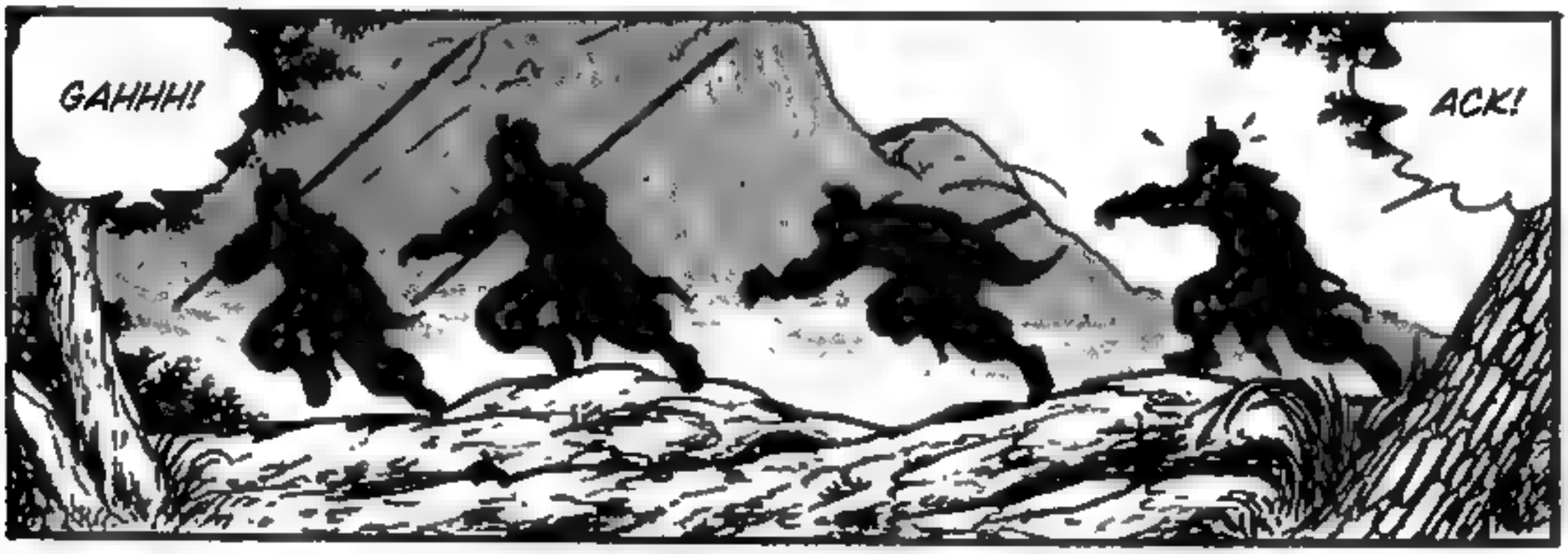
NOW!

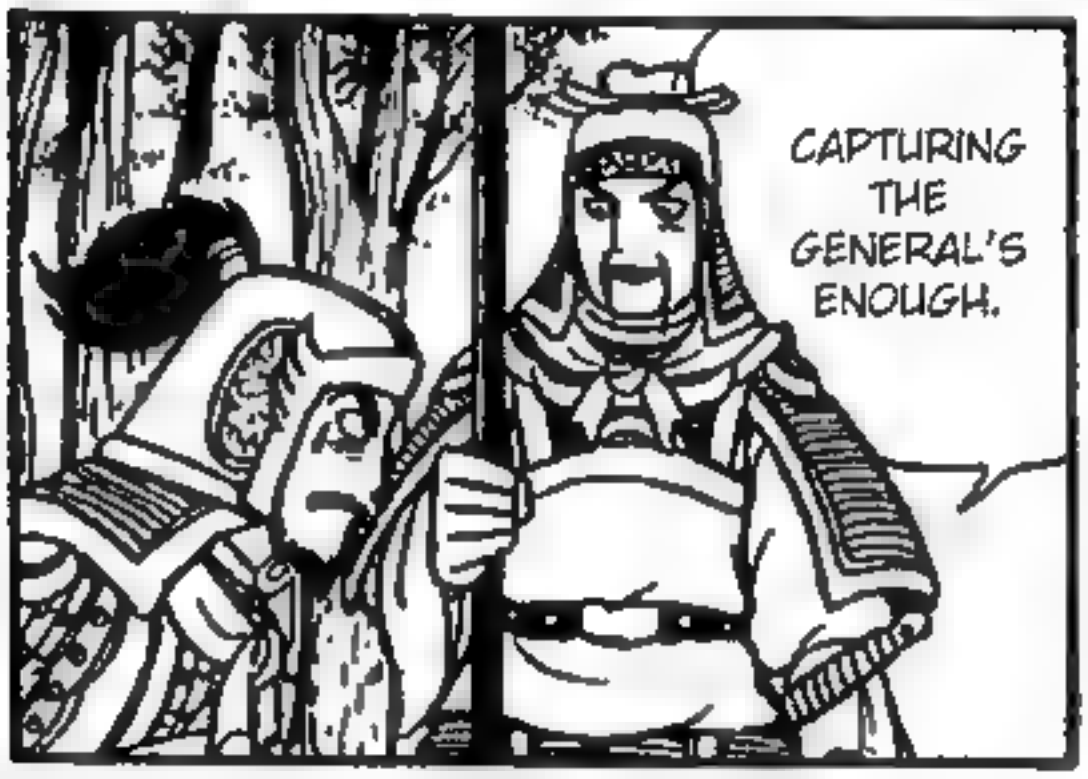
AGHH!

HOLD HIM DOWN!



W-WHY'RE THERE ENEMIES HERE TOO!?


GAHHH!
ACK!


CAPTURING THE GENERAL'S ENOUGH.

THAT'LL DO. NO NEED TO PURSUE THEM.

WEI YAN RETURNED TRIUMPHANTLY, HAVING CAPTURED LING BAO

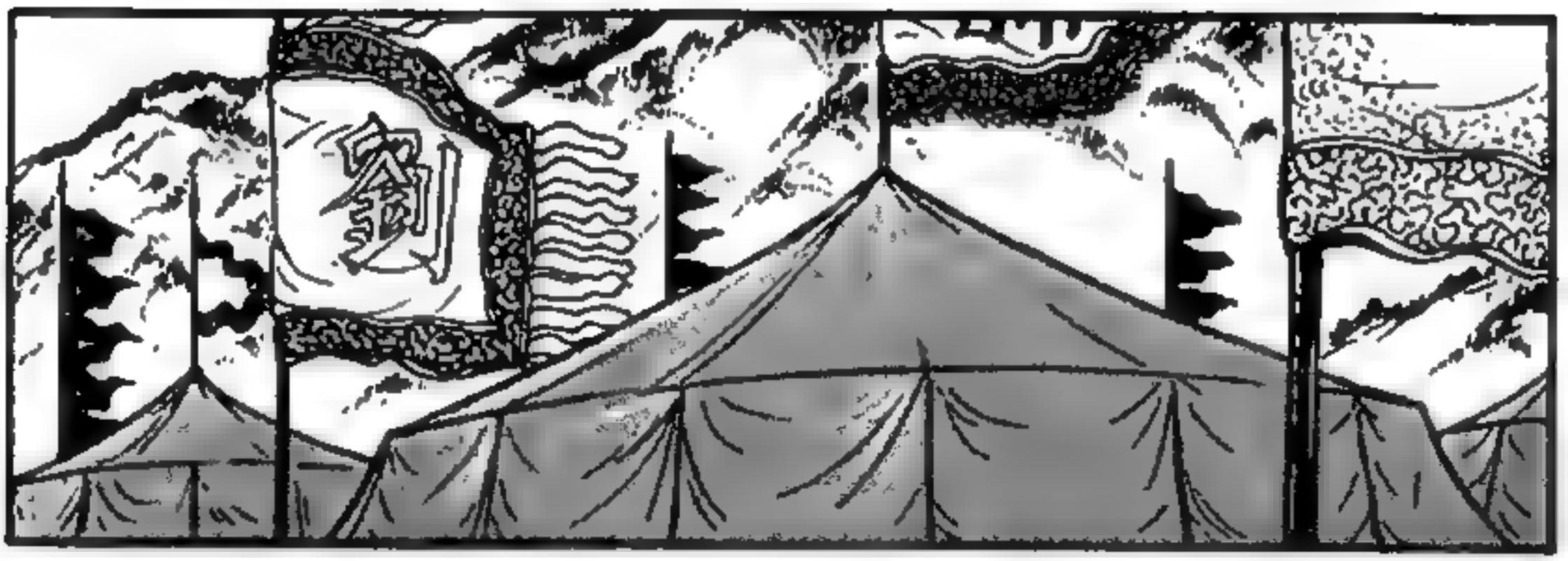
IT WAS A FLAG OF AMNESTY SIGNIFYING ALL WHO SURRENDER PEACEFULLY WILL BE SPARED.

MEANWHILE, LIU BEI HUNG A FLAG READING 免死 AT DENG XIAN'S CAMP

TRUE TO HIS WORD, LIU BEI GAVE THE SURRENDERED CAPTIVES THE CHOICE TO RETURN HOME. SOME CHEERED WITH JOY AT THIS NEWS,

WHILE OTHERS WERE SO MOVED THEY JOINED HIS ARMY.

IT WAS A SPLENDID VICTORY.


YES, IT'S JUST AS HE SAYS. FAILING TO PUNISH RULE-BREAKERS WILL ONLY CAUSE FURTHER CHAOS AND ILL-DISCIPLINE.
WEI YAN HAS CLEARLY DEFIED MY LORD'S ORDER. THIS IS A CAPITAL OFFENSE. IF HE'S NOT PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY, GENERAL HUANG ZHONG MIGHT BE ENRAGED.
HM...
YES, SIR.
CALL WEI YAN.

COME, LING BAO.

AH, GOOD.
OUR LORD REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE, GENERAL.

YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT WEI YAN COMES WITH THE ENEMY GENERAL LING BAO.

WEI YAN. FROM WHAT I HEAR, HUANG ZHONG'S ARROW SAVED YOU FROM MORTAL PERIL TODAY. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD THANK HIM FIRST.

IT'S TRUE HE DEFIED ORDERS BUT TO PUT HIM TO DEATH SEEMS A BIT HEAVY-HANDED...

IS THAT ALL..?

IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR IMPRESSIVE SHOT, I WOULD HAVE LOST MY HEAD. I OWE YOU MY LIFE, GENERAL.

AND I MUST CONFESS THAT IT WAS THE RASHNESS OF YOUTH THAT SPURRED ME ONTO ATTACKING BOTH CAMPS AND THEREBY JEOPARDIZING OUR ENTIRE ARMY.

I SEE, HE MUST WANT ME TO APOLOGIZE ON MY OWN ABOUT TRYING TO STEAL A MARCH ON HUANG ZHONG...

ALTHOUGH YOU DEFIED ORDERS, SEEING AS HOW YOU CAPTURED LING BAO ALIVE, I WILL OVERLOOK YOUR CRIME TODAY, WEI YAN.

MNN...

BUT I SWEAR I ONLY DID IT TO TRY AND HELP OUR LORD. AND SO I LOWER MY HEAD AND BEG FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS, HUANG ZHONG.

THANK YOU, MY LORD.

AS FOR YOU, HUANG ZHONG, YOUR DEEDS ON THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY WERE MOST MERITORIOUS. I WILL SHOWER YOU WITH GIFTS ONCE WE ACHIEVE OUR FINAL OBJECTIVE OF CAPTURING CHENGDU.

NOW UNTIE THOSE ROPES.

MOST IMPRES-SIVE, MY LORD...

WOULD YOU KINDLY RETURN TO LUO FORTRESS AND ASK YOUR COMRADES TO OPEN THE GATES? IF SO, I PROMISE I WILL REWARD YOU ALL GREATLY AND LET YOU MAINTAIN YOUR RANKS.

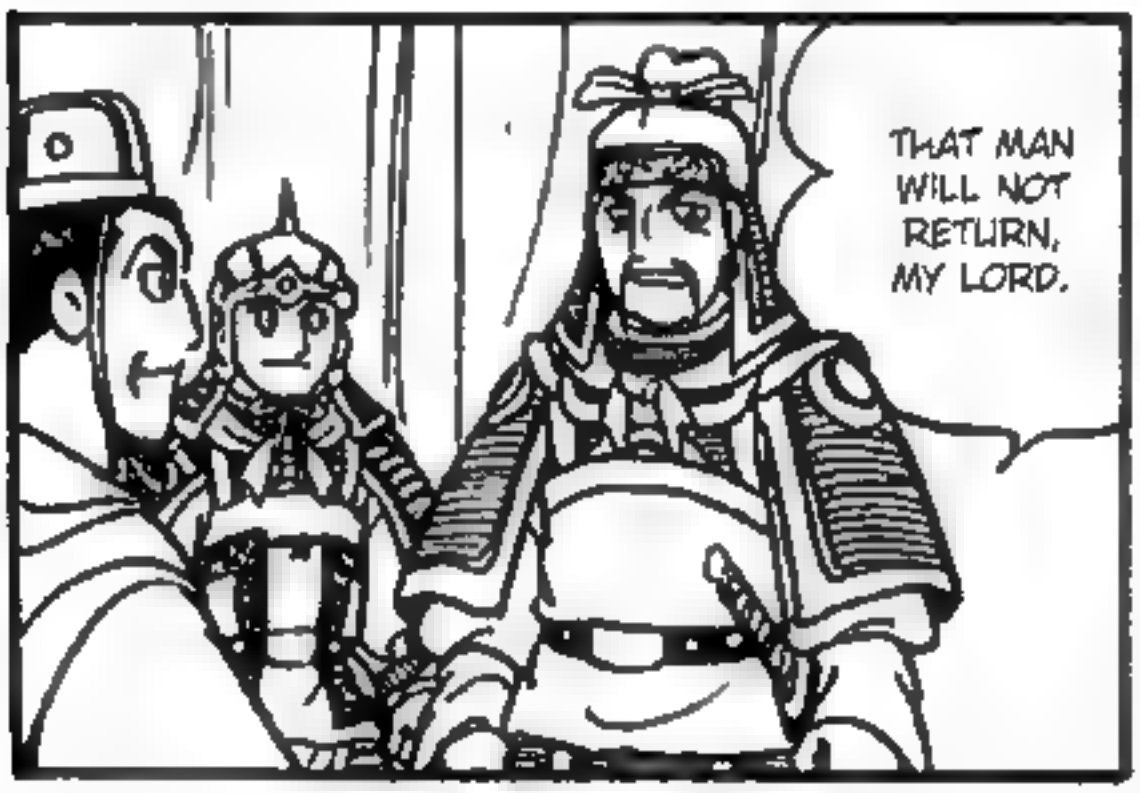
LING BAO, I AM NOT A MAN INCLINED TO BLOODLUST OR CRUELTY. IT IS FOR THIS REASON I GAVE ALL THE CAPTIVE ENEMY SOLDIERS THE OPTION TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND RETURN HOME. I WISH TO GIVE YOU THE SAME CHOICE TOO.

HAVING PARDONED MY DEATH, HOW CAN I REFUSE MY SAVIOUR'S REQUEST? LIU GUI AND ZHANG REN ARE MY SWORN BROTHERS. I PROMISE I WILL CONVINCE THEM TO LAY DOWN ARMS IF YOU LET ME GO.

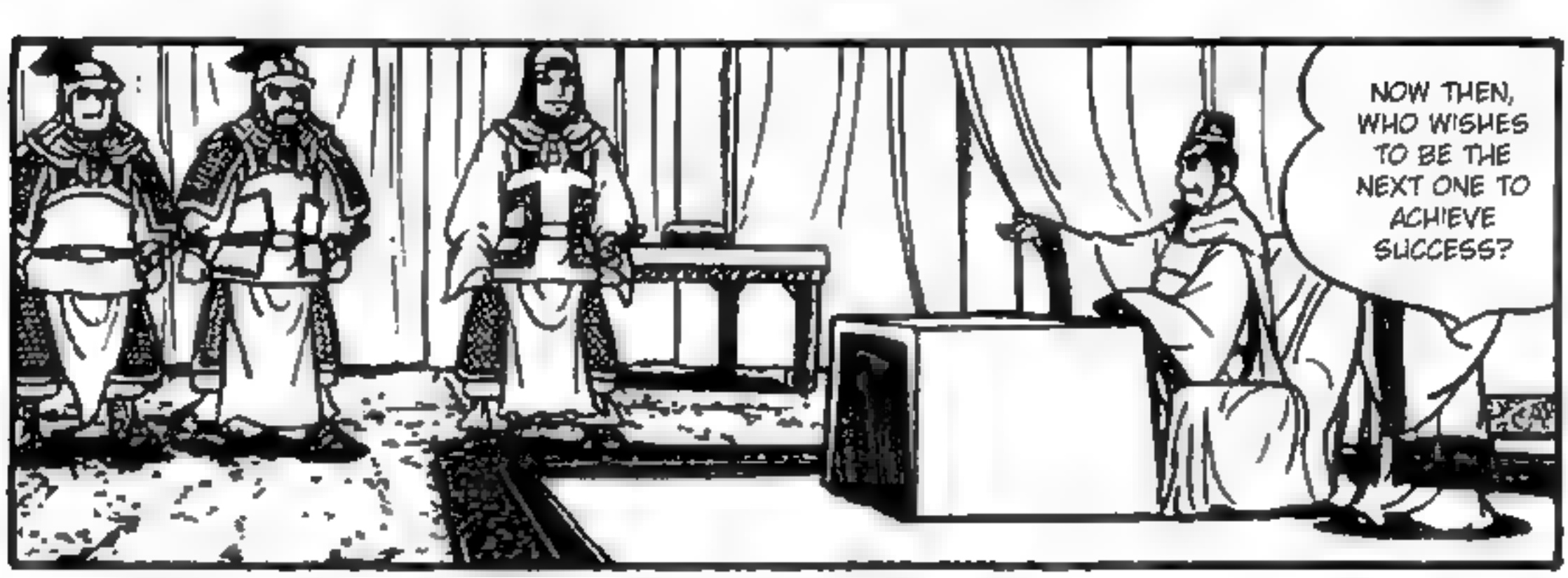
GIVE LING BAO A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND A HORSE.

VERY GOOD.

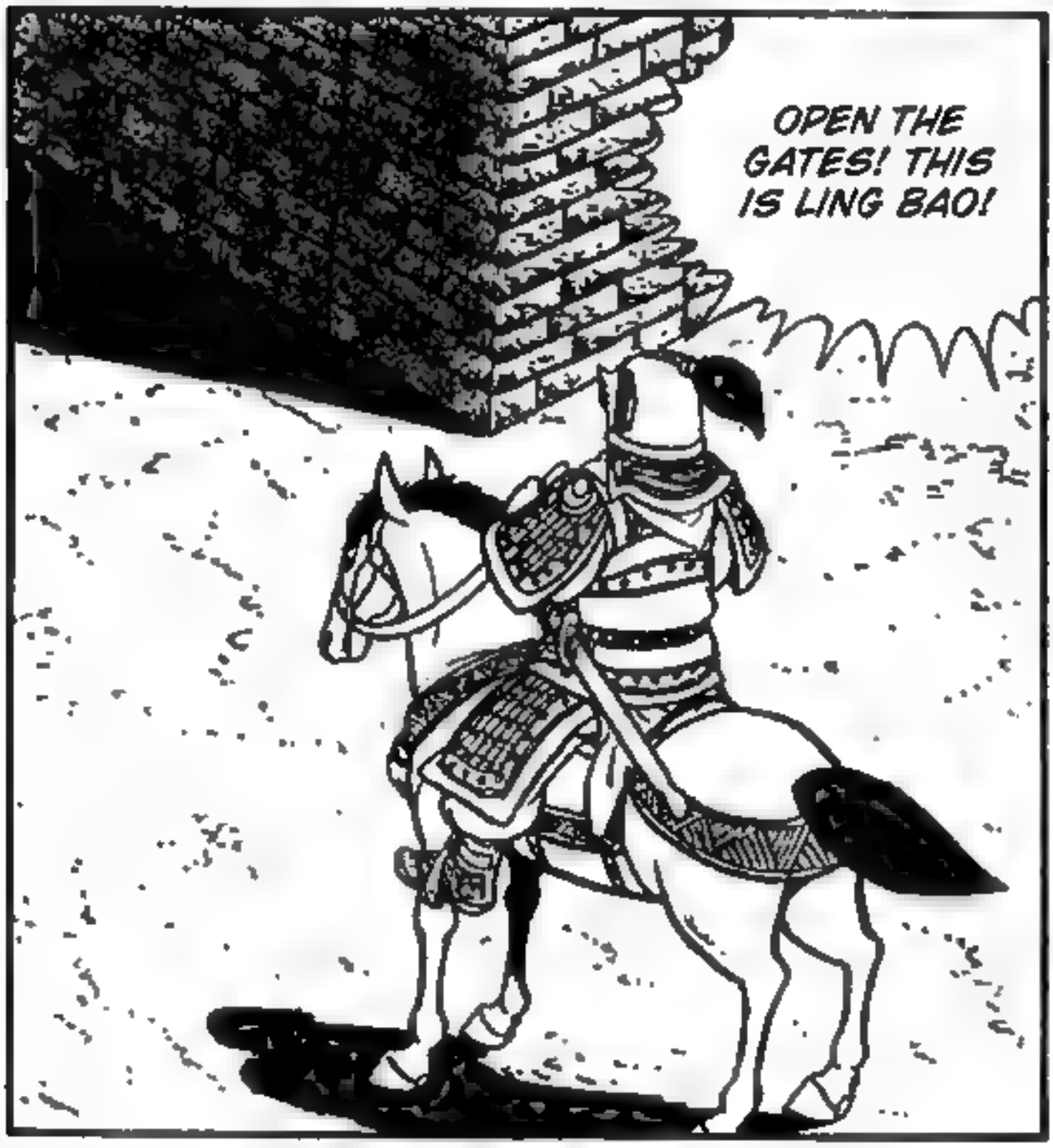
I HUMBLY ACCEPT.


THAT MAN WILL NOT RETURN, MY LORD.

SO BE IT THEN. LING BAO WILL LOSE HONOUR IN THAT CASE. HIM BREAKING HIS WORD WILL DO NO HARM TO ME.


NOW THEN, WHO WISHES TO BE THE NEXT ONE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS?

LAKE BOTTOM



OPEN THE GATES!

AH! GENERAL LING BAO!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, GENERAL?

カ・カ・カ・

WE HEARD YOU WERE CAPTURED! WHAT HAPPENED?

LING BAO!

ALTHOUGH OUR FIRST BATTLE ENDED IN OUR LOSS, LIU BEI'S TROOPS WEREN'T NEARLY AS POWERFUL AS I EXPECTED. WE DEFINITELY HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING.

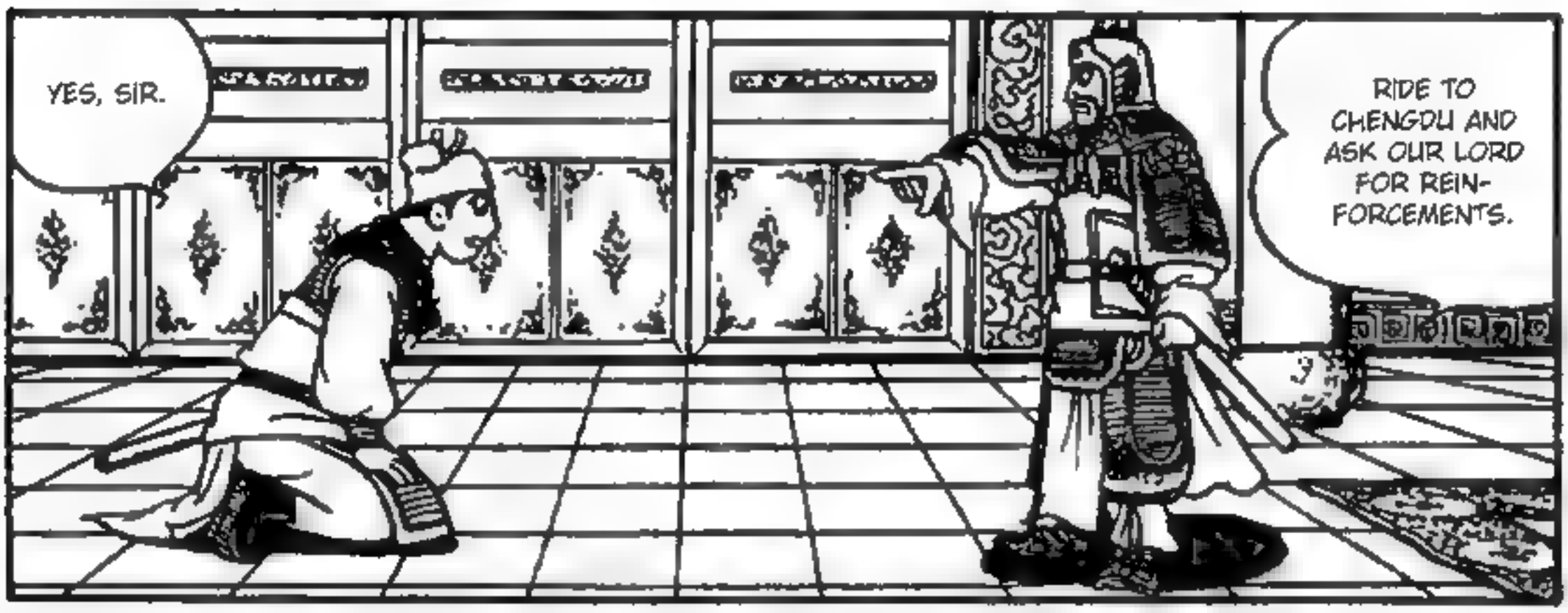
I SLAYED SOME OF THE WATCH GUARDS AND ESCAPED.

REINFORCEMENTS?

THAT'S REASSURING TO HEAR. WE WERE JUST IN THE MIDDLE OF DISCUSSING OUR NEXT MOVE. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF REQUESTING FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS?

IF WE'RE IN AGREEMENT, LET'S WASTE NO MORE TIME.

GOOD IDEA. MANY OF MY SOLDIERS TAKEN CAPTIVE DEFECTED TO LIU BEI.


YES, SIR.
RIDE TO CHENGDU AND ASK OUR LORD FOR REIN-FORCEMENTS.

HAHAHA, AS IF I'D BE TAKEN OUT SO EASILY! I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON LIU BEI SOON ENOUGH!
I SURE AM GLAD TO SEE YOUR OLD MUG AGAIN. FOR A MINUTE, OUR PROSPECTS LOOKED DIM WITH BOTH YOU AND DENG XIAN LOST.

RESPONDING TO THE REQUEST, LIU ZHANG SENT 20,000 SOLDIERS. THEY WERE LED BY HIS ELDEST SON LIU XUN,

AND HIS BROTHER IN LAW WU YI

AND LEI TONG FOLLOWED AS WELL

WU LAN

YES, THAT'S THE CURRENT SITUTATION, WU YI.
SO DENG XIAN AND LING BAO'S CAMPS ARE NOW OCCUPIED BY HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN?
I HAVE A PLAN.
IF THE ENEMIES BEGIN THEIR SIEGE OF LUO, IT'LL BE HARD TO DRIVE THEM BACK. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

GREAT IDEA.

AH!

THE ENEMIES ARE CAMPED AT A RELATIVELY LOW ELEVATION. IF WE DESTROY THE DIKES ALONG FU RIVER, WE CAN EASILY DROWN THEM ALL!

ALRIGHT, BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET NOTICED.

GIVE ME JUST 5000 SOLDIERS TO BUILD THIS DAM, AND I ASSURE YOU THAT OUR ENEMIES WILL BE REDUCED TO FOOD FOR THE FISH.

AT ONCE, 5000 MEN GATHERED THE TOOLS NEEDED FOR LING BAO'S GRAND PLAN

WHAT!? ZHANG LU HAS BEGUN ANOTHER ATTACK ON JIAMENG PASS!?

FU RIVER PASS

SO WU'S TRYING TO HIT OUR REAR...

ACCORDING TO OUR INTELLIGENCE, ZHANG LU WAS PERSUADED TO ATTACK BY SUN QUAN, WHO PROMISED TO AMPLY SUPPLY HIS ARMIES.

YES, WE MUST SEND MORE TROOPS TO DEFEND THE PASS AT ALL COSTS.

PANG TONG, IF WE LOSE JIAMENG PASS, WE'LL BE CUT OFF FROM JINGZHOU AND TRAPPED HERE.

MENG DA WOULD BE BEST.

WHO CAN I ENTRUST WITH THIS TASK?

YES, SIR.

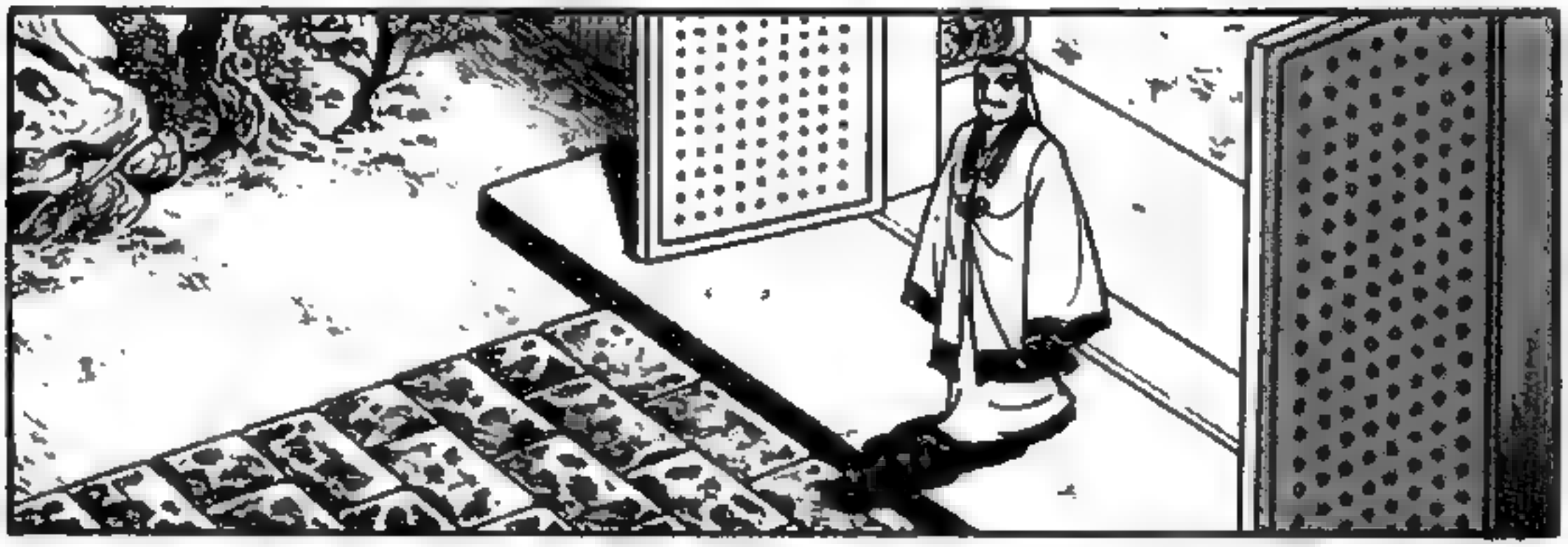
CALL MENG DA AT ONCE!

YES.

YOU CALLED, MY LORD?

YES, SIR.
I NEED YOU TO DEFEND JIAMENG PASS RIGHT AWAY. ZHANG LU HAS LAUNCHED YET ANOTHER OFFENSIVE.
REQUEST GRANTED.
I HAVE BUT ONE REQUEST, MY LORD. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE ALONG HUO JUN, WHO IS CURRENTLY STATIONED HERE. HE IS A NANJUN NATIVE WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO.
劉
劉
BOTH SIDES WERE NOW IN A FRENZY OF ACTIVITY

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE A BREATHER NOW...



STRANGE?
MASTER, YOU HAVE A STRANGE GUEST WAITING.

?

WHOM MIGHT YOU BE?

COULD HE BE A SPY...?

AH, ARE YOU THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE?

ONE MUST SHOW COURTESY TO RECEIVE COURTESY.

HAHA, IGNORANT TO THE PROPER ETIQUETTE OF RECEIVING GUESTS, ARE YOU NOW?

PERHAPS I AM, AND PERHAPS I'M NOT. THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION AT HAND IS WHO *YOU* ARE.

YES, SIR.

BRING OUT FOOD AND DRINKS AT ONCE.

THANK YOU.

PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO POUR YOU A GLASS.

I MUST CONFESS ALL THIS FOOD HAS MADE ME SLEEPY.

AHH, THAT WAS DELICIOUS!

EXCUSE ME WHILE I TAKE A SHORT NAP.

YES, SIR.

GO CALL FA ZHENG. AS A LOCAL, PERHAPS HE'LL KNOW WHO THIS MAN IS.

MASTER PANG TONG WISHES FOR SIR TO COME TO HIS HOUSE.

OH? I WONDER WHY...

THANK YOU FOR COMING, FA ZHENG.

GOOD DAY, PANG TONG.

LET ME SEE.

OH?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THE STRANGEST MAN HAS BARGED INTO MY HOME AND I'M AT A LOSS AS TO WHOHE IS...

WHY IF IT ISN'T YONG NIAN!

HM?

WAKE UP!

FA ZHENG!

I TAKE IT YOU TWO ARE FRIENDS?

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!

HAHAHA!

UNFORTUNATELY, HIS WISE ADVICE WAS A BIT TOO BLUNT FOR LIU ZHANG, WHO THUS FIRED HIM FROM HIS POST AND CUT HIS HAIR TO PREVENT HIM WEARING A TOP KNOT.

YES, THIS IS MY FRIEND PENG YANG, COURTESY NAME YONG NIAN.

HA HA HA

IF YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO MEET THE IMPERIAL UNCLE?

I SEE.

ALLOW ME TO GUIDE YOU THEN.

THAT'S PRECISELY THE REASON WHY I CAME.

YES, YOU REALLY MUST GO SEE LIU BEI.

I'VE COME TO TELL YOU A MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

THANK YOU FOR COMING, PENG YANG.

ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOUR TROOPS ARE CAMPED QUITE CLOSE TO THE FU RIVER, WHERE DEATH AWAITS THEM?

UTMOST IMPOR-TANCE?

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY DEATH AWAITS THEM!?

YES.

YOU MEAN WEI YAN AND HUANG ZHONG'S CAMPS?

THE FU RIVER IS PREVENTED FROM FLOODING THROUGH DIKES STRETCH-ING SEVERAL TENS OF LI. IF THESE DIKES WERE TO BE DESTROYED, YOU'LL FIND THE EERIE SIMILARITY I POINTED OUT TO BE *MORE* THAN *JUST* A SIMILARITY...

IT IS!?

IF YOU'D CARE TO SCRUTINIZE THE LIE OF THE LAND, YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THEY'RE CAMPING ON GROUNDS EERILY SIMILAR TO THE BOTTOM OF A LAKE.

I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR WISDOM, PENG YANG!
YES, SIR.
SEND A WARNING OUT TO HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN ABOUT THIS MATTER AT ONCE!

THE MESSENGERS RUSHED FORTH TO THE CAMPS

LUO

BUT...

BUT WHAT?

YES, GENERAL.
ARE THE PREPARATIONS COMPLETE?

HM...

THE ENEMIES ARE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE DIKES. I FEAR IT'LL BE QUITE DIFFICULT FOR 5000 MEN TO SECRETLY DESTROY THE DIKES.

YES, SIR.

CONTINUE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THEM FOR THE TIME BEING THEN.

I CAN'T.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LING BAO? HAVE YOU STILL NOT GONE AHEAD WITH YOUR PLAN?

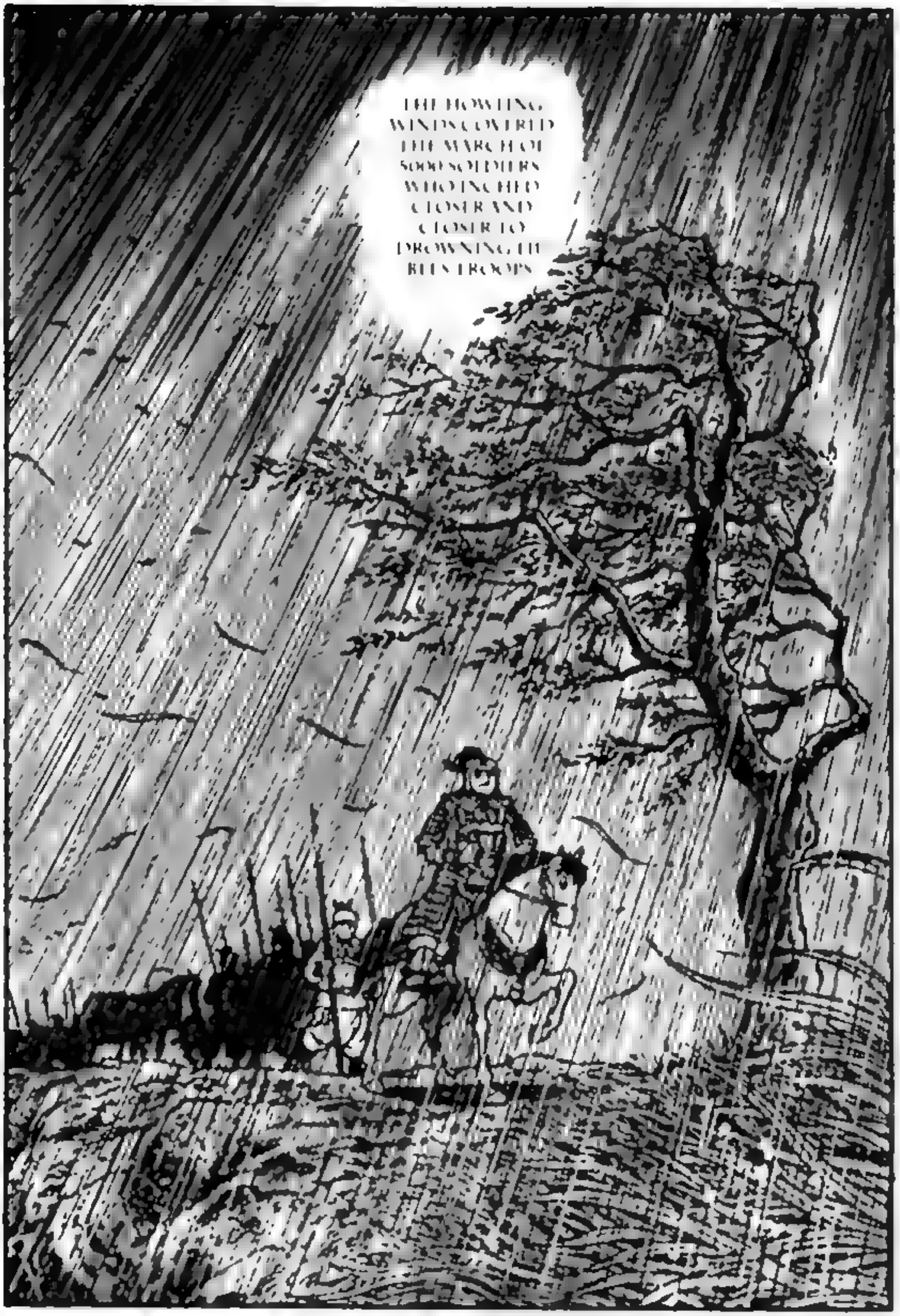
HM...

THE ENEMIES ARE TOO ATTENTIVE RIGHT NOW TO MISS 5000 SOLDIERS.

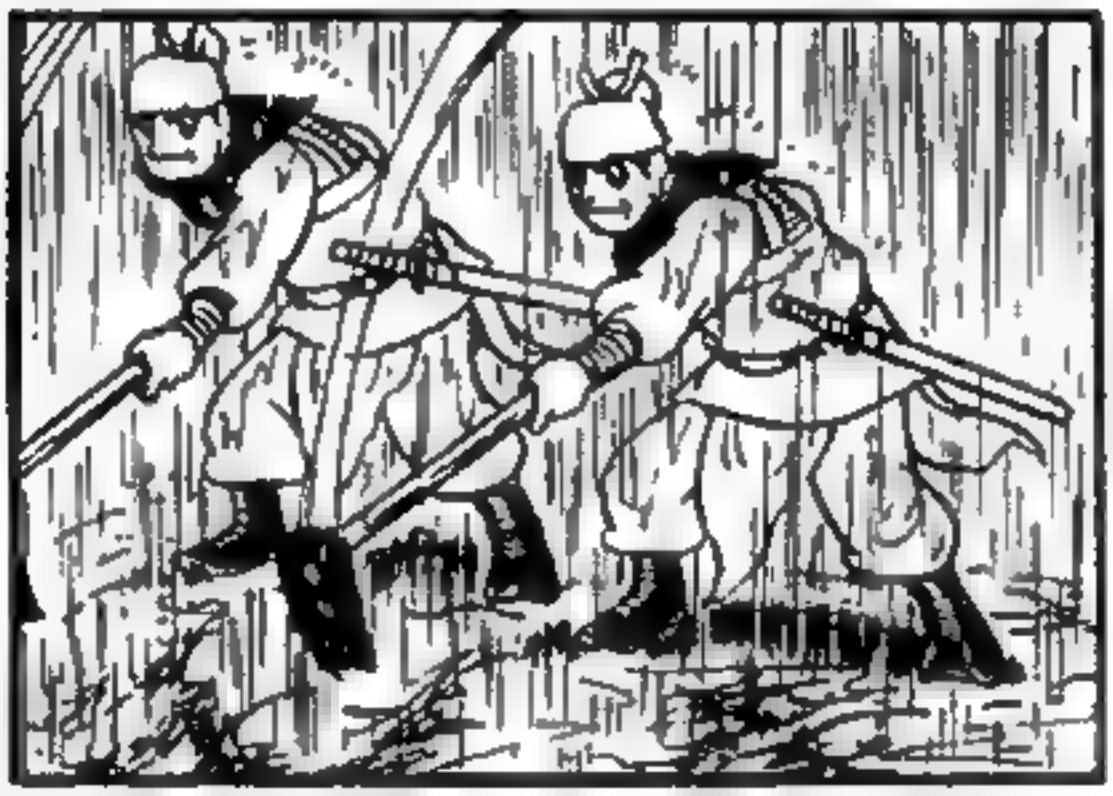
WANG BAO CONTINUED TO WORRY WHILE A STORM STARTED TO BLOW

MEN! GET READY TO SET OUT!

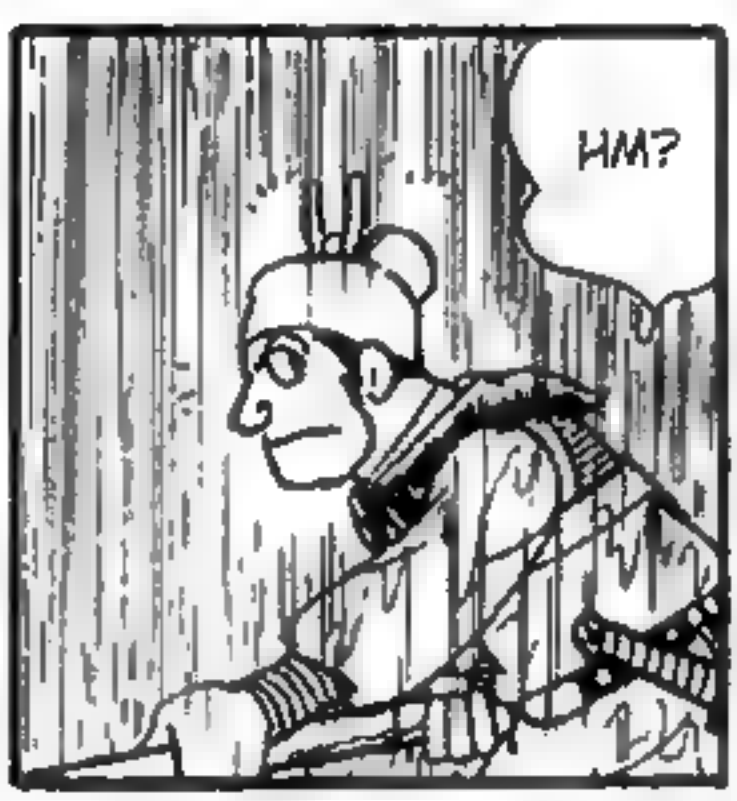
THANK THE HEAVENS. THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE TO DESTROY THE DIKES SECRETLY.


THE HOWLING
WINDS COVERED
THE MARCH OF
SORROWFUL HEARTS
WHO INCHED
CLOSER AND
CLOSER TO
DROWNING IN
RED TEARS

FALL OF THE PHOENIX



COMMENCE THE PLAN!


HM?

WHAT IS IT?

NO, IT SOUNDED LIKE .. HORSE HOOF STEPS...
IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE SOUND OF OUR HOES.

NO, NOT REALLY.
DID YOU HEAR THAT JUST NOW?

WHAT!

ENEMY ALERT!

AH!

CURSES! WE'VE BEEN FOUND OUT!

THAT'S THE ENEMY GENERAL, LING BAO! CAPTURE HIM!
NGHHI

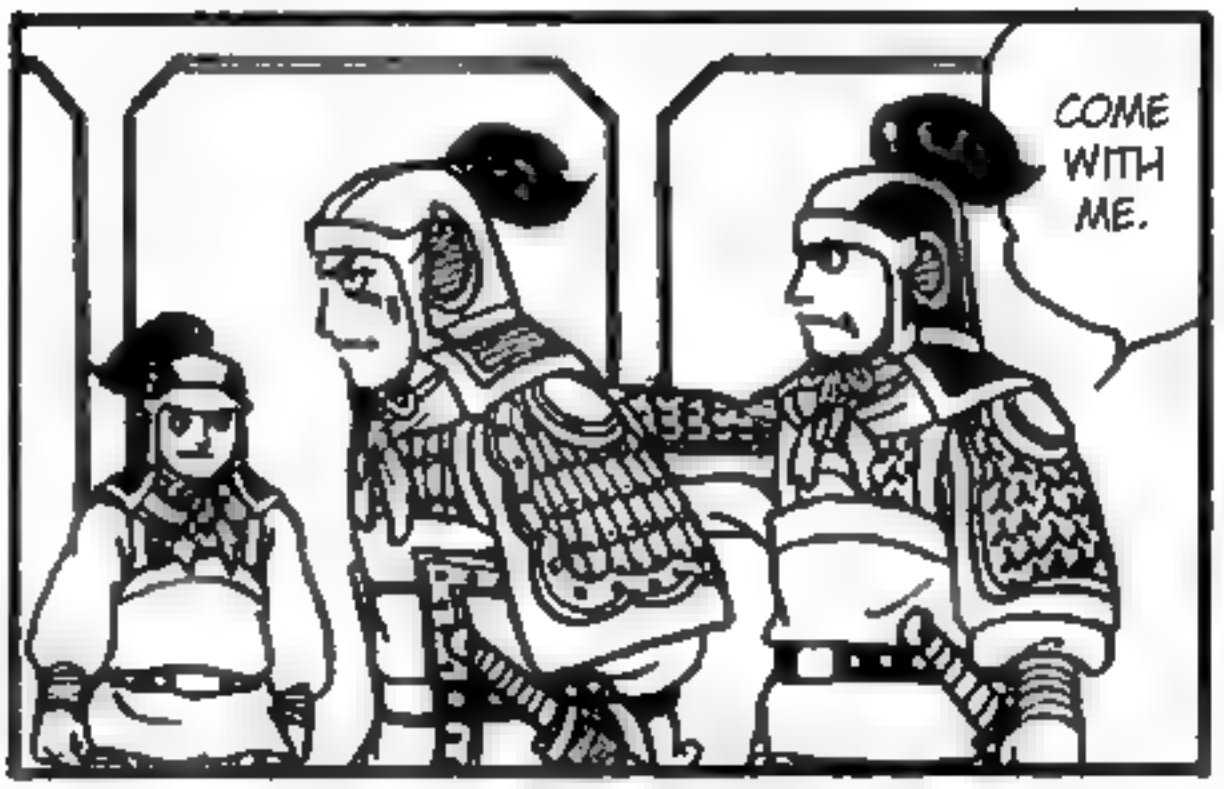
TIE HIM UP!

DAMN YOU ALL!

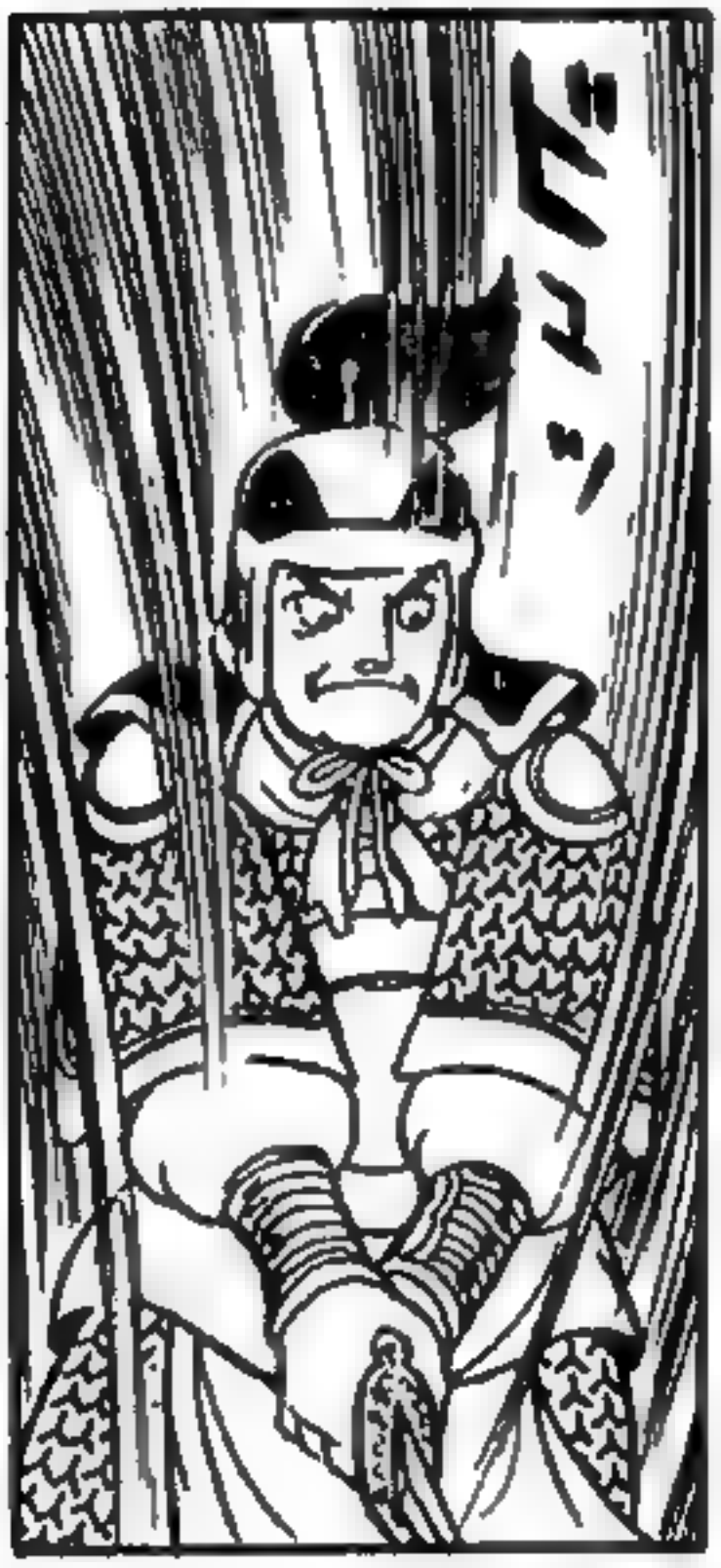
FU RIVER PASS

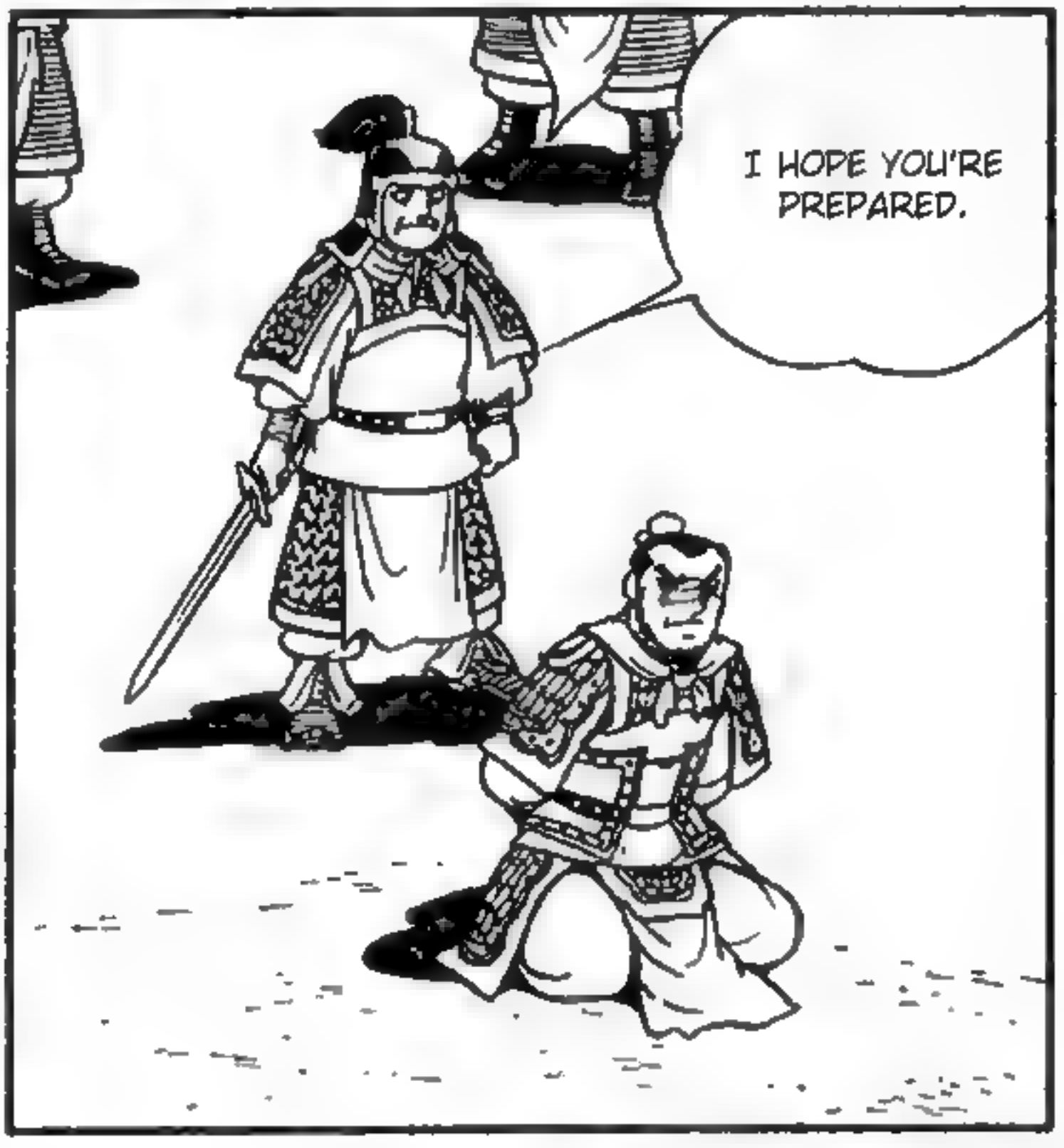
LING BAO, I ACTED FAIR AND JUST BY PARDONING YOU LAST TIME.

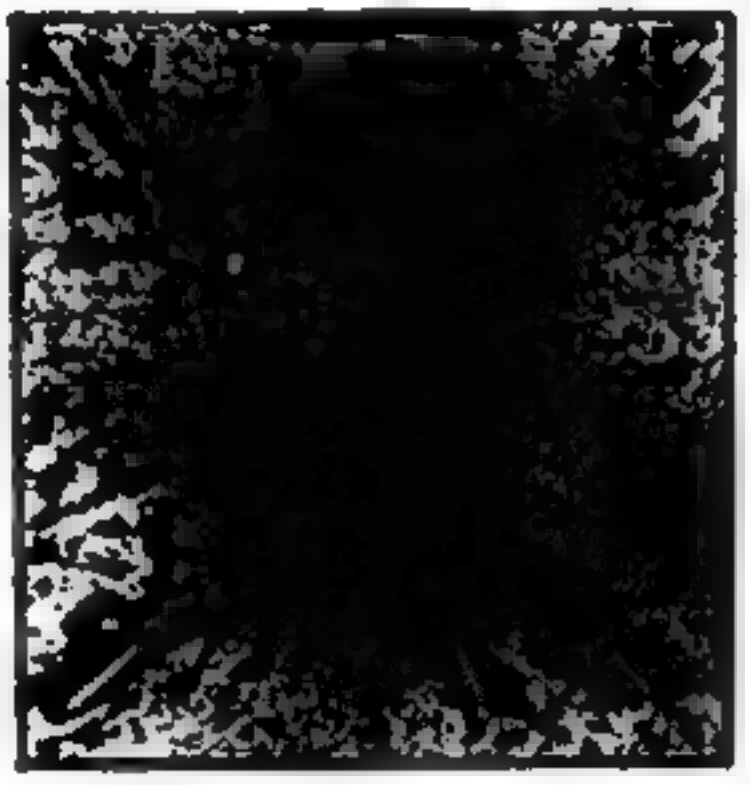
BUT YOU HAVE BETRAYED YOUR WORD, AND CONSEQUENTLY YOUR HONOUR AS A WARRIOR. I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT EXECUTING YOU NOW.


COME WITH ME.

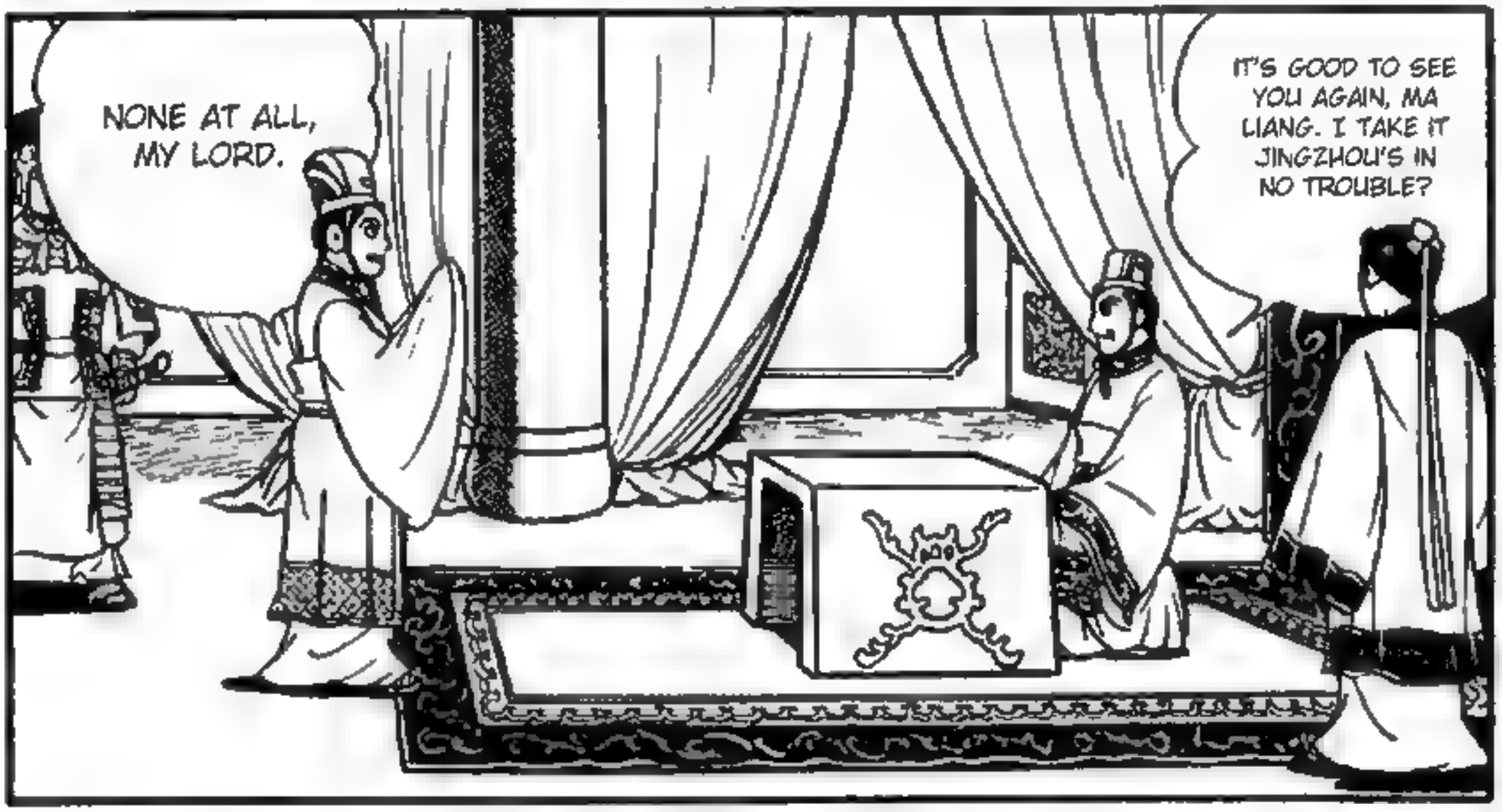
OFF WITH HIS HEAD!




I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED.



SOON AFTER, MA LIANG CAME FROM JINGZHOU UNDER KONGMING'S ORDERS


NONE AT ALL, MY LORD.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MA LIANG. I TAKE IT JINGZHOU'S IN NO TROUBLE?

A LETTER FROM KONGMING? QUICK, HAND IT OVER.

I'VE COME TODAY TO DELIVER KONGMING'S LETTER.

HMM...

OH, HOW I ENVY YOU, KONGMING. OUR LORD TRUSTS YOU UTTERLY ON ALL MATTERS...

I WONDER JUST HOW MUCH HE HAS COME TO TRUST ME...?

PANG TONG. KONGMING HAS SENT US A WARNING ABOUT THE RESULTS OF HIS LATEST ASTROLOGICAL CALCULATIONS.

"THE BIG DIPPER HANGS WEST, WHILE VENUS HAS DIMMED. THIS YEAR WILL NOT BODE WELL FOR OUR ARMIES AND LEADERS MAY FIND THEMSELVES IN PERIL."

I THINK IT'S BEST I BRIEFLY RETURN TO JINGZHOU TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FIRST-HAND WITH KONGMING BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T QUITE AGREE TO THAT. AFTER COMING ALL THE WAY HERE OUT WEST, AS WELL AS OUR RECENT STRING OF SUCCESS, YOU WAVER BECAUSE OF A SINGLE LETTER FROM KONGMING?

AT THIS MOMENT, PANG TONG FELT INTENSE JEALOUSY SURGE WITHIN HIM. HIS CLOUDED MIND WONDERED IF PERHAPS KONGMING WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO PREVENT HIM FROM SUCCEEDING TOO MUCH IN SHU.

INTERPRETED IT INACCURATELY?

I'M ALSO QUITE PROFICIENT IN ASTROLOGY MYSELF AND THOUGH KONGMING'S OBSERVATIONS ARE INDEED CORRECT, I BELIEVE HE HAS INTERPRETED IT INACCURATELY.

RATHER THAN HAVE WEI YAN AND HUANG ZHONG STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE, MY ADVICE IS TO HAVE THEM ATTACK.

TRUE, THE COMING YEAR DOES NOT BODE PARTICULARLY WELL FOR OUR ARMIES, BUT IT DOES NOT BODE PARTICULARLY BAD EITHER. AS FOR THE BIG DIPPER HANGING WEST, I SEE THAT AS A SIGN THAT YOU'LL SOON ENTER CHENGDU.

BRING ZHANG SONG'S MAP RIGHT AWAY.

HMM...

I KNOW A SECRET PATH THAT WILL HELP IMMENSELY, MY LORD.

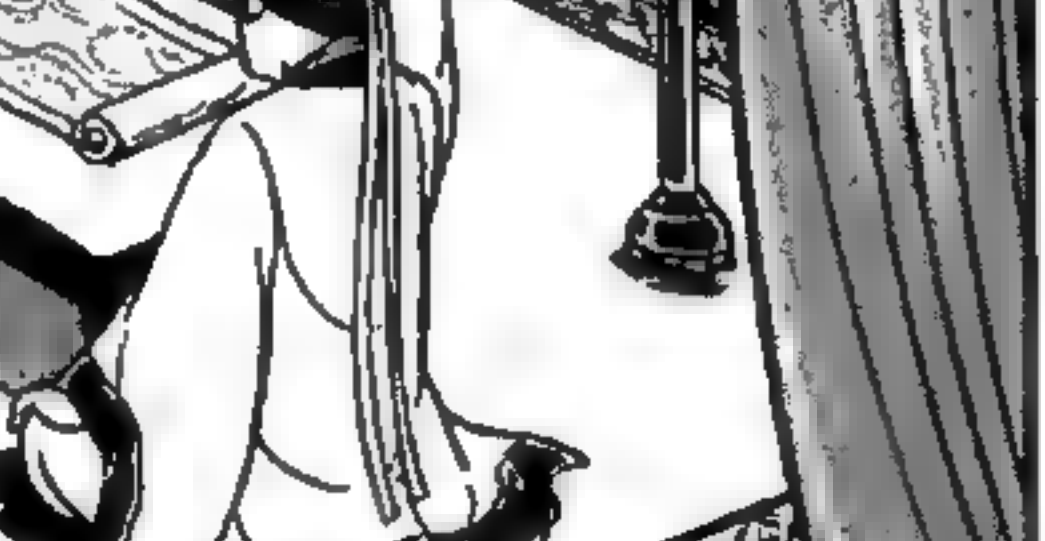
EVEN IF WE ARE TO ATTACK, THE FORTRESS AT LUO IS REPUTED TO BE THE HARDEST TO CAPTURE IN ALL OF SHU. HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE GO ABOUT THIS TASK?

A SECRET PATH?

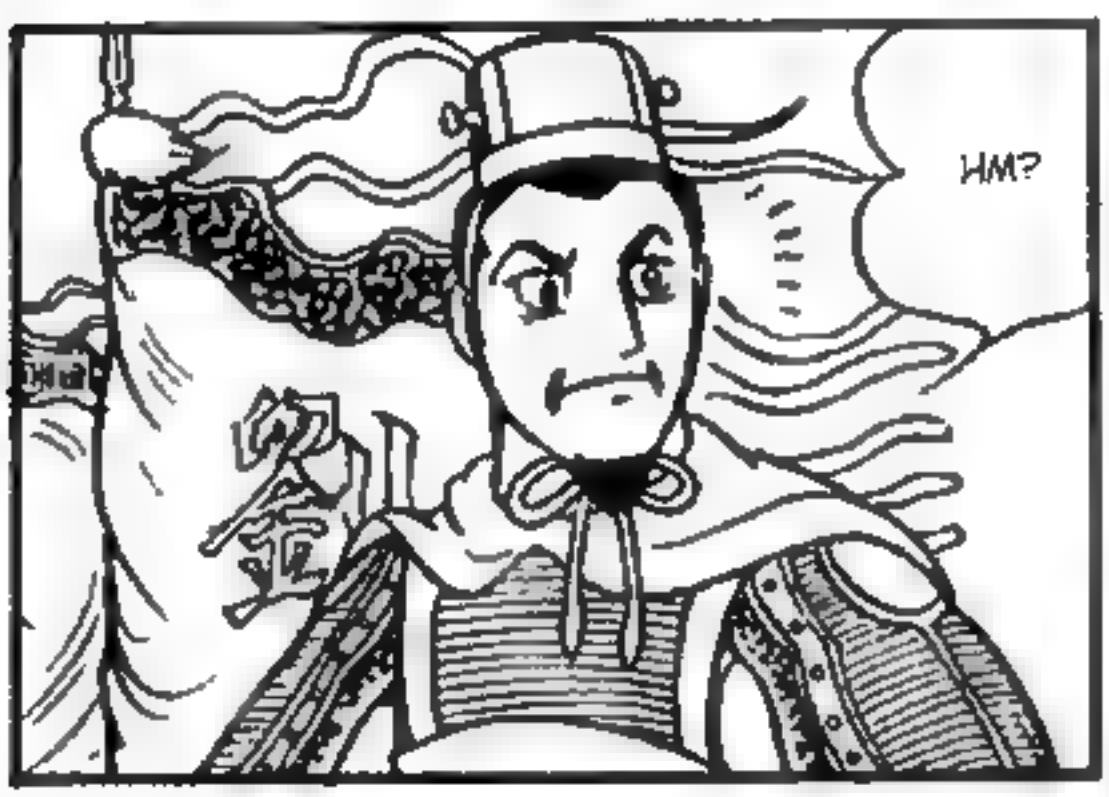
PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT. I WILL BE BACK WITH THE MAP SHORTLY.

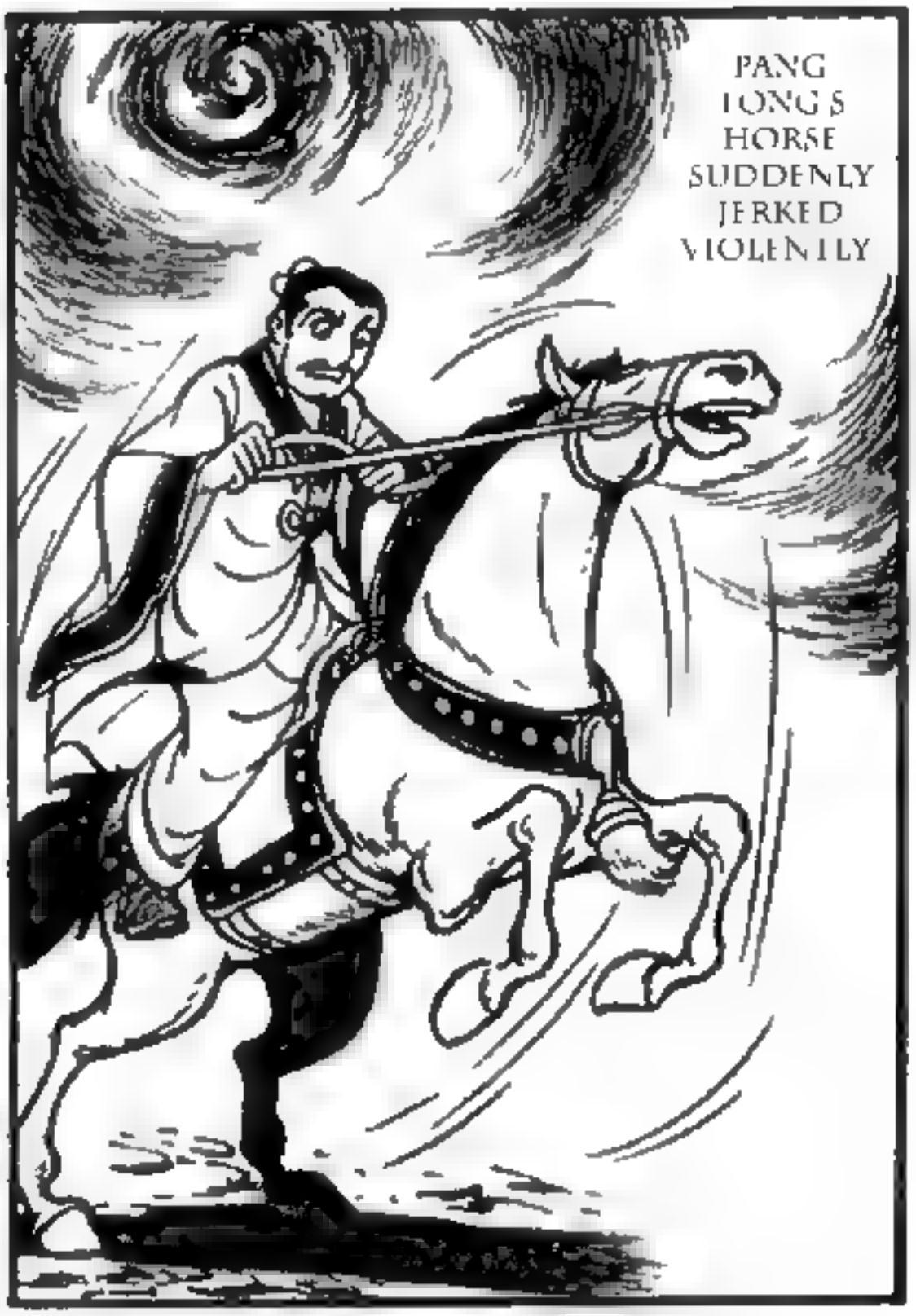
YES, IT RUNS ALONG THE MOUNTAINS JUST NORTH FROM HERE AND IT LEADS TO THE EASTERN GATES OF THE LUO FORTRESS. THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER PATH IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT LEADS TO THE WESTERN GATES.
I SEE, SO THIS IS YOUR SECRET PATH...

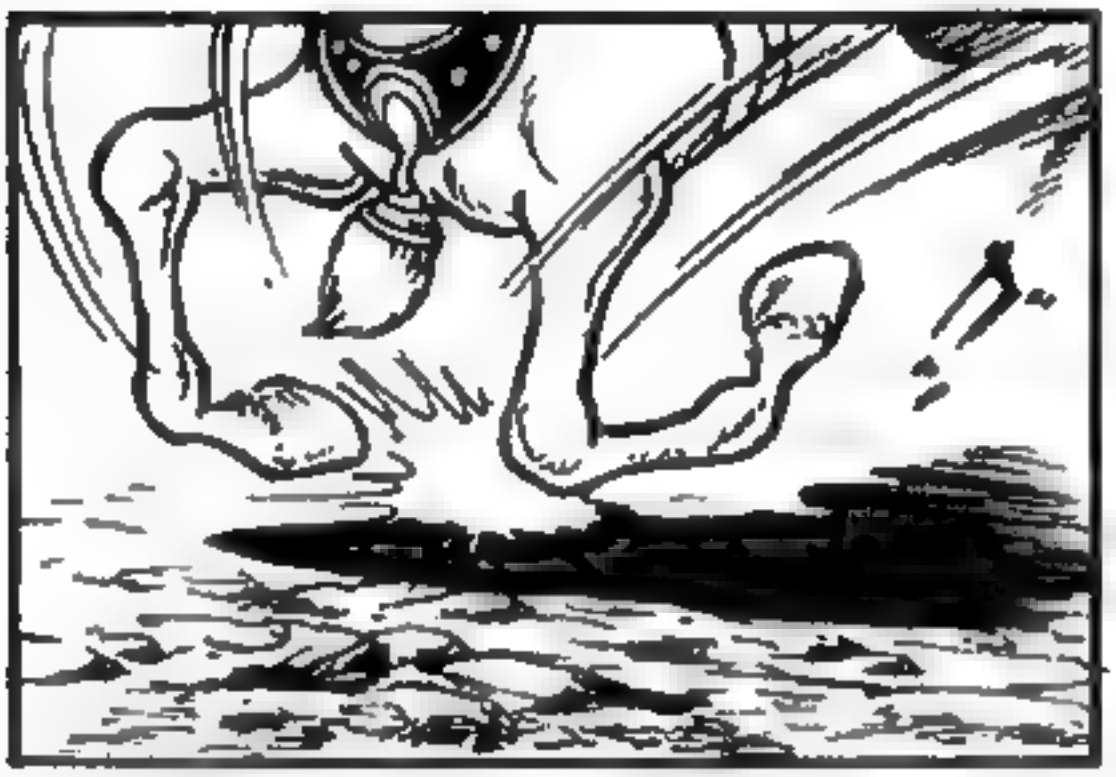
YES.
I'LL TAKE THE SOUTHERN ROAD, WHILE YOU CAN TAKE THIS SECRET NORTHERN ROAD.


EXCELLENT. LET US SPLIT OUR ARMY AND USE THESE ROADS TO SURROUND THE ENEMIES.

THE NEXT DAY, AS THE TWO ARMIES WERE SET TO DEPART


HM?


PANG TONG'S HORSE SUDDENLY JERKED VIOLENTLY



PANG TONG!

AHH!

WHY DO YOU RIDE SUCH A VIOLENT HORSE, PANG TONG?

I'M FINE, MY LORD.

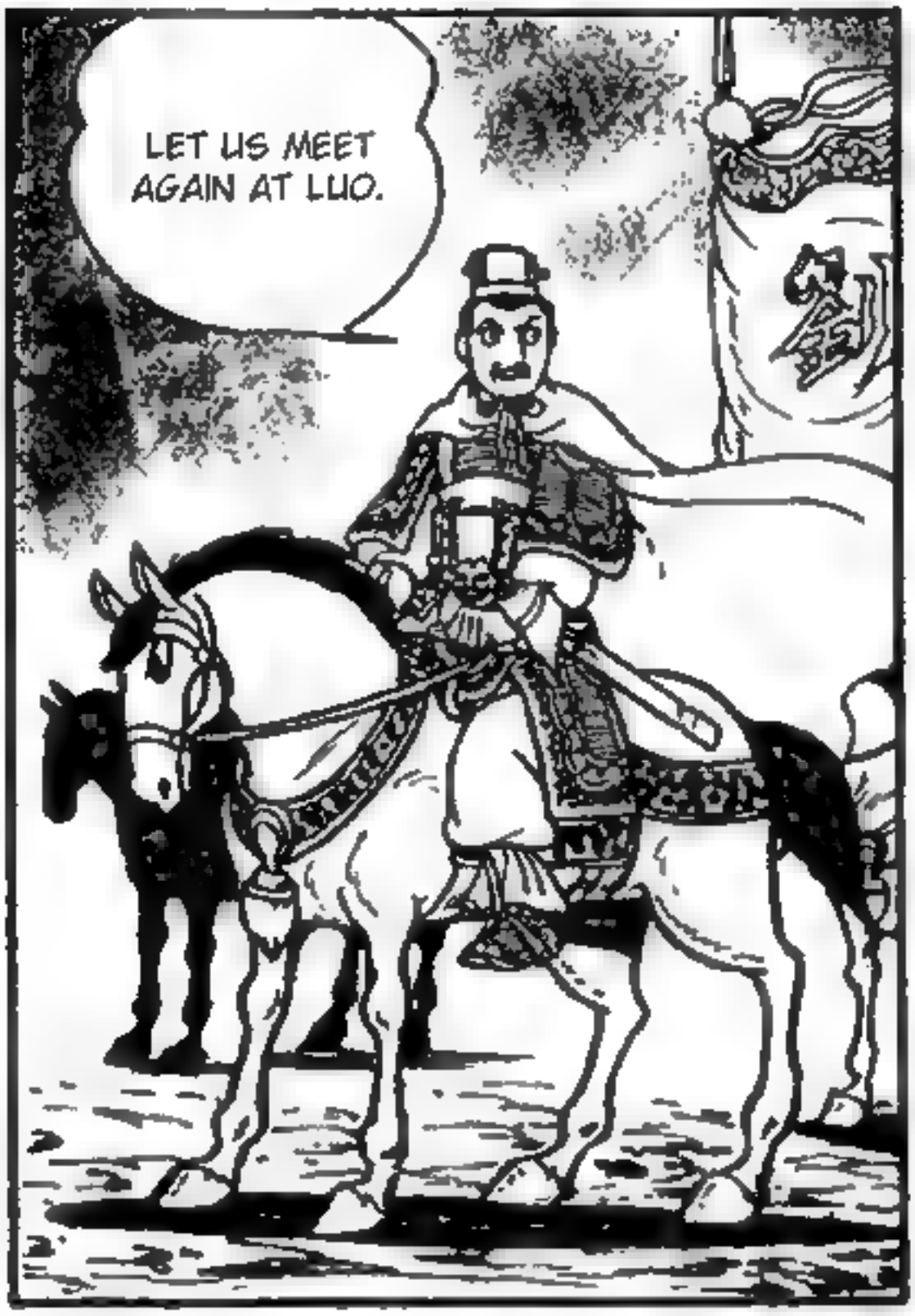
BRING PANG TONG MY HORSE!

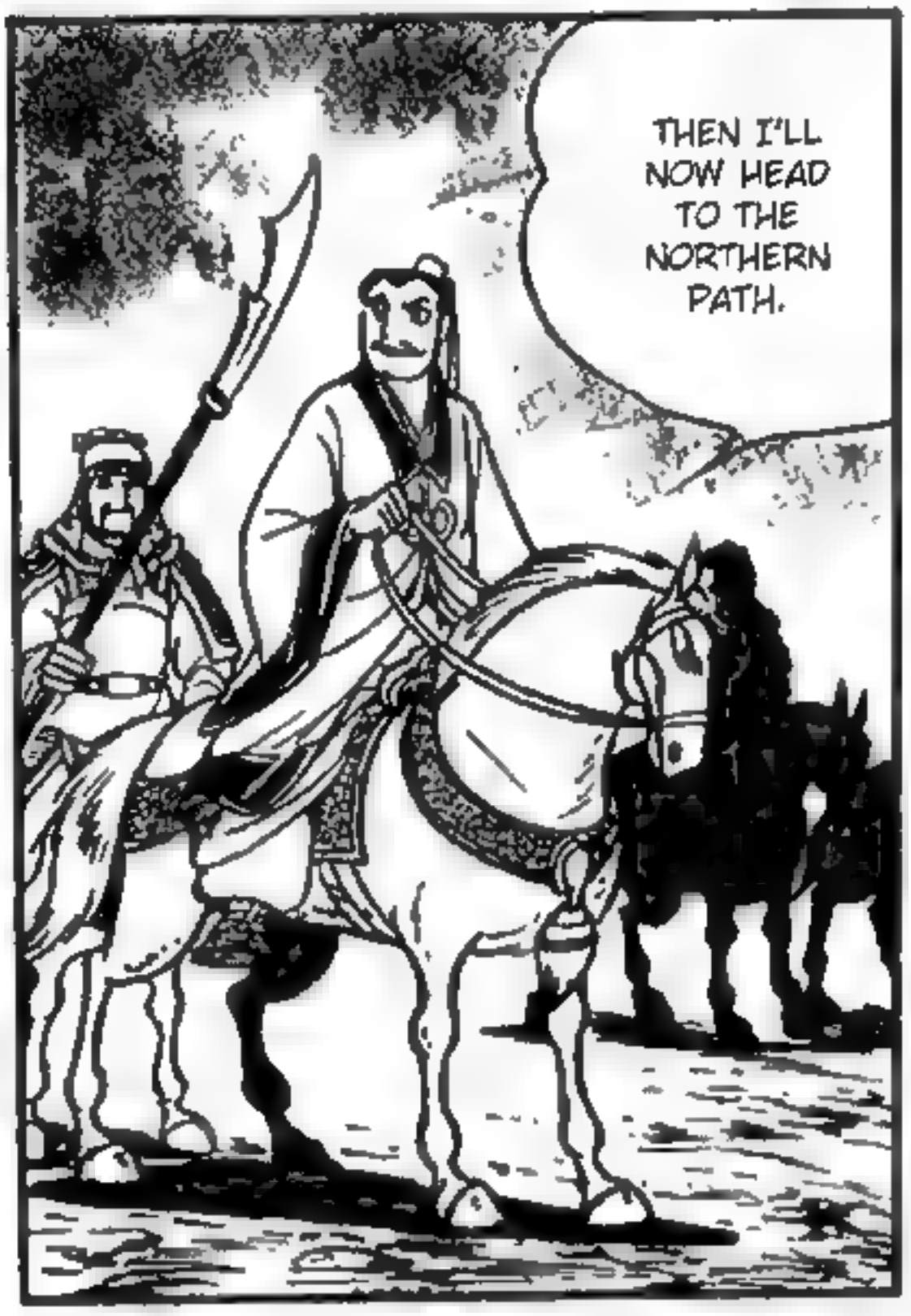
EITHER WAY, YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR HORSE.

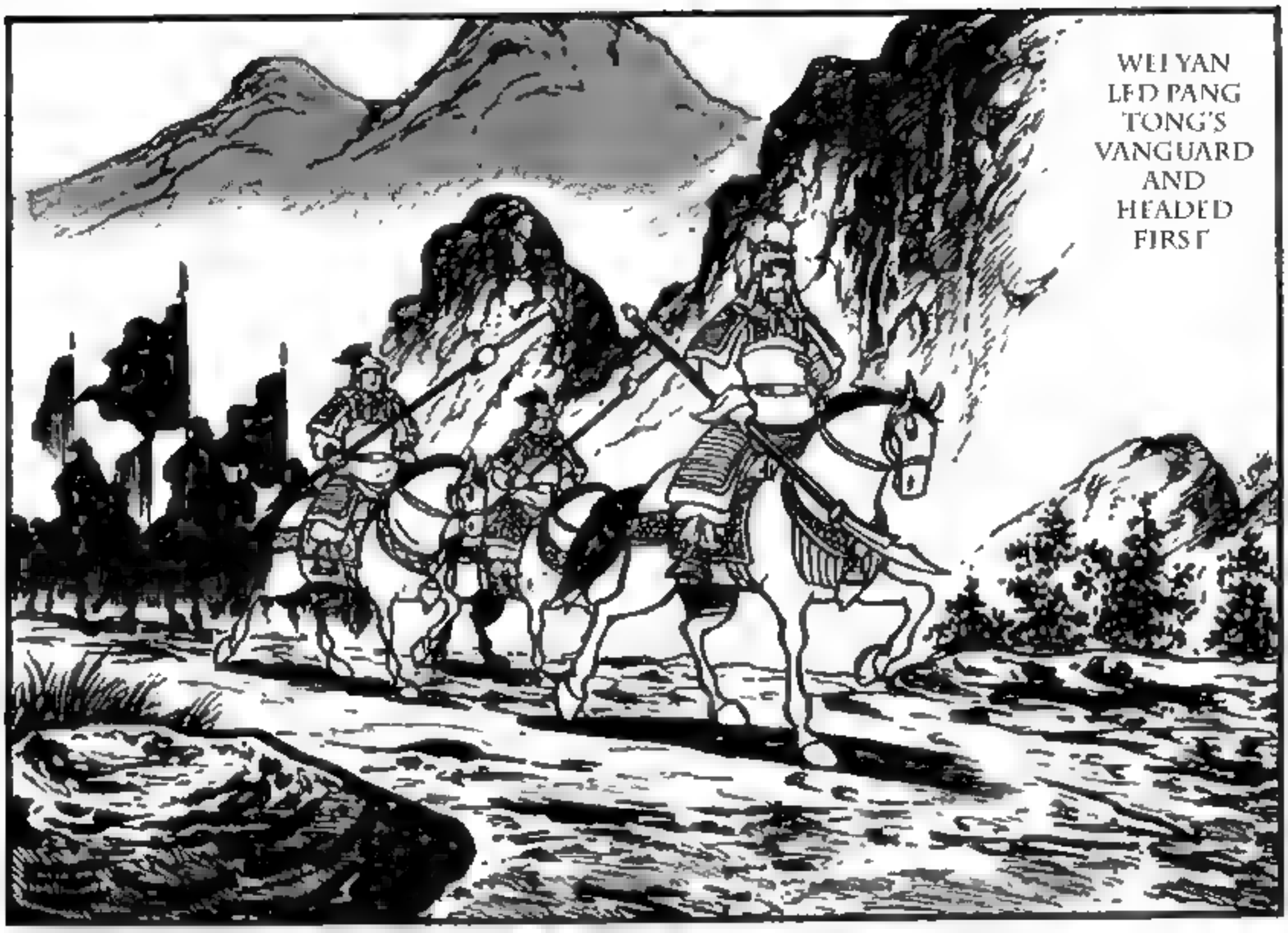
NO, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED.

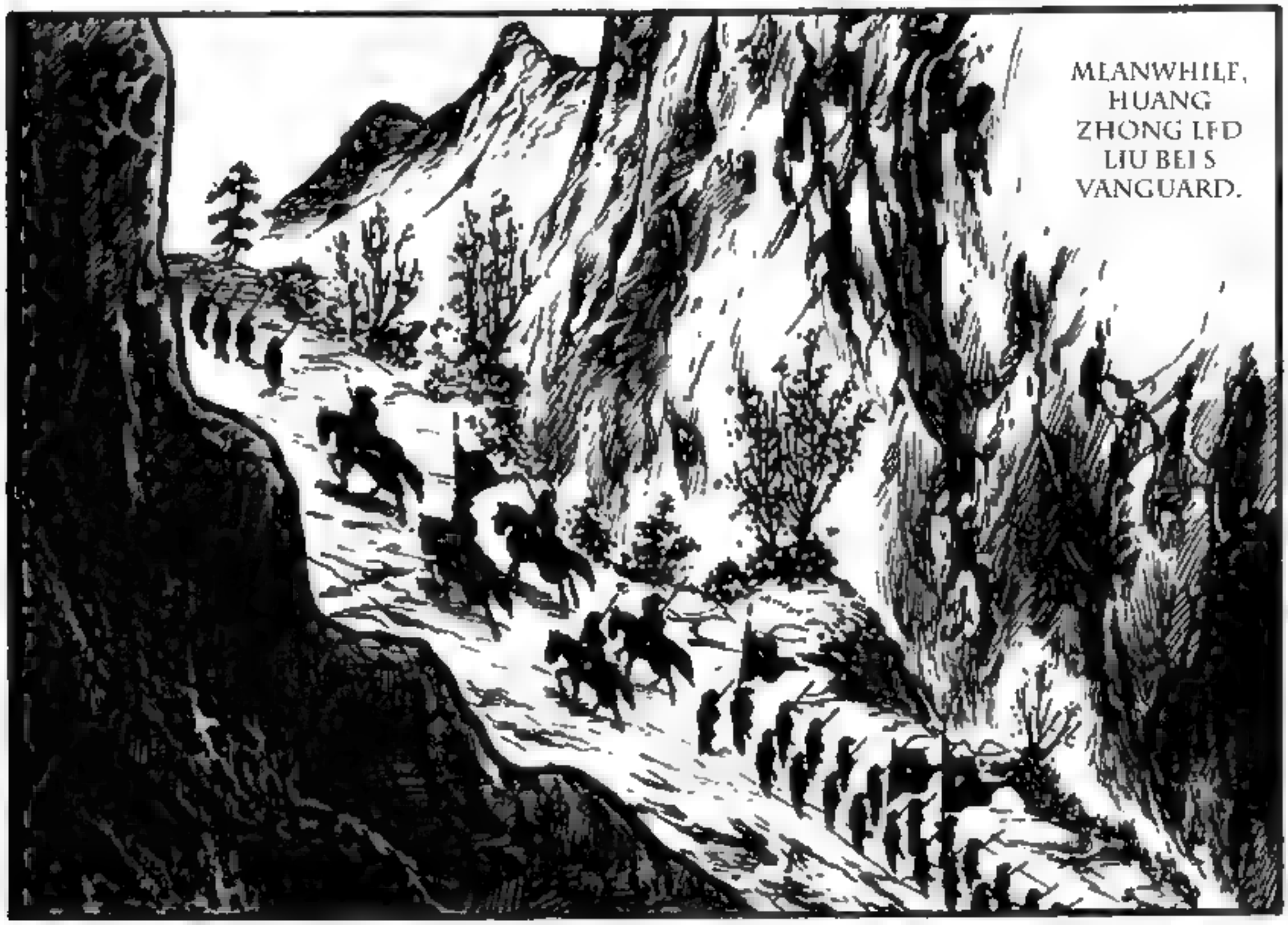
THAT ONE'S QUITE DOCILE SO YOU SHOULD HAVE NO WORRIES.

I AM INDEBTED BY YOUR KINDNESS.

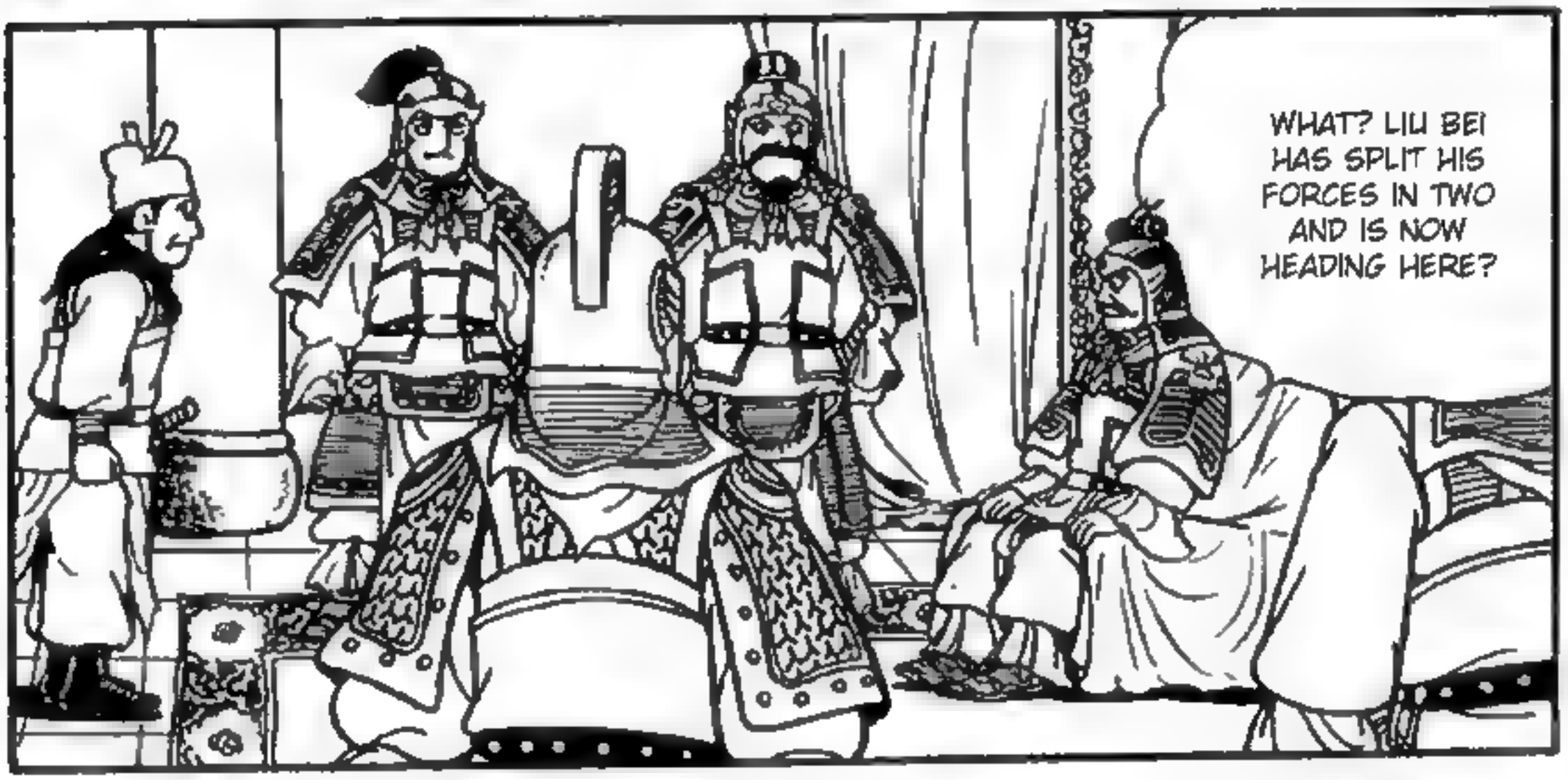

LET US MEET AGAIN AT LUO.


THEN I'LL NOW HEAD TO THE NORTHERN PATH.


WEI YAN
LED PANG
TONG'S
VANGUARD
AND
HEADED
FIRST


MEANWHILE,
HUANG
ZHONG LED
LIU BEI'S
VANGUARD.

LUO

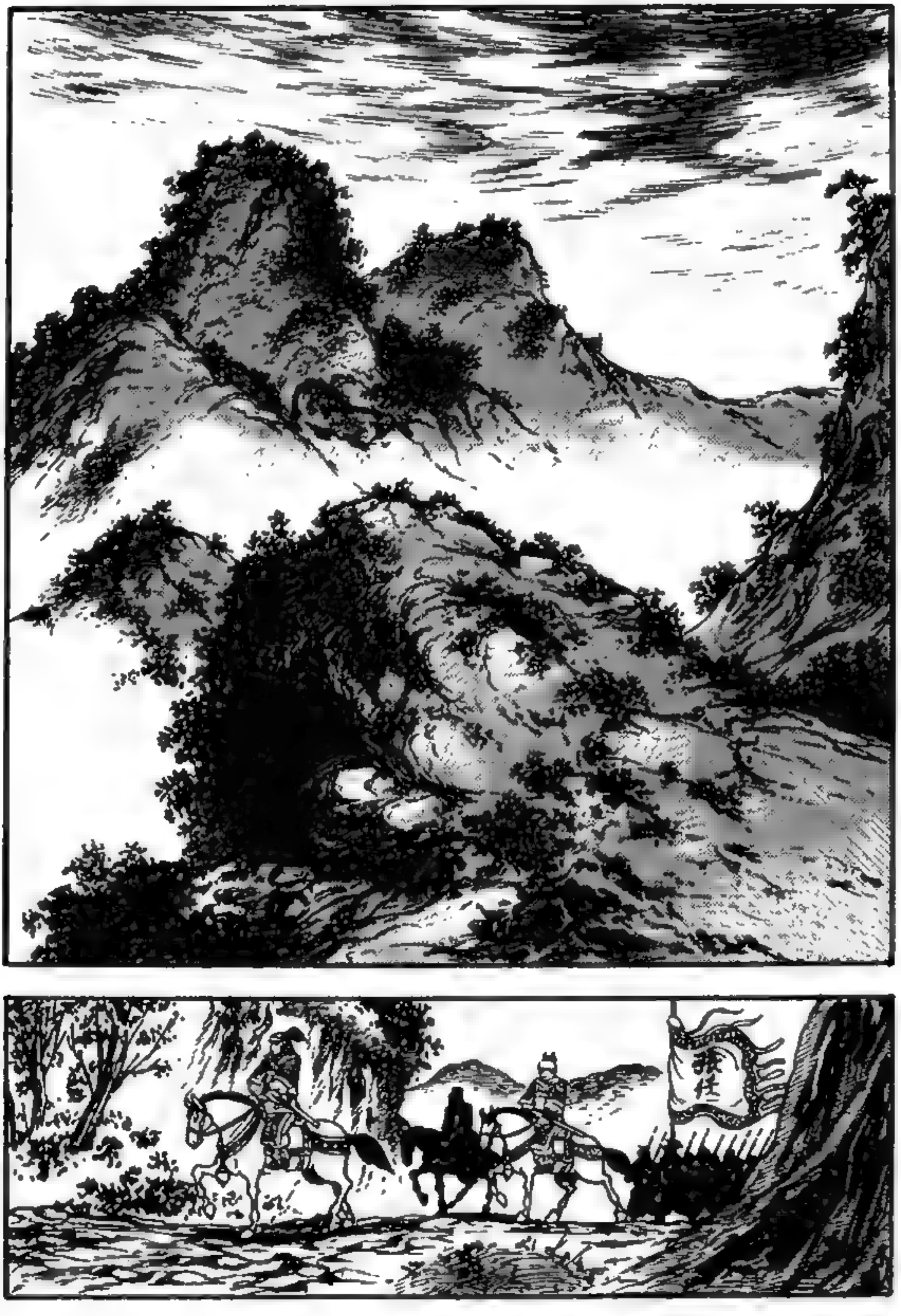

WHAT? LIU BEI HAS SPLIT HIS FORCES IN TWO AND IS NOW HEADING HERE?

JUST YOU WAIT, LING BAO. I'LL AVENGE YOUR DEATH SOON ENOUGH.

ALRIGHT, ZHANG REN.

I HAVE A PLAN. JUST LEAVE THEM TO ME.

TROOPS! FOLLOW AFTER ME!


我性

ARCHERS! PLACE YOUR-SELVES FOR AN AMBUSH AROUND THIS SPOT!

MAKE SURE TO NOT SHOOT UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL!

I HEARD IT'D BE A HARD HIKE...

HUFF HUFF

BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE THIS HARD...

OUR TARGET IS LIU BEI ALONE.

THEN STAND BY AND LET THEM PASS.
I BELIEVE THIS IS LIU BEI'S VANGUARD PASSING BELOW US.

WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, I WANT ALL ARCHERS TO AIM AT HIM!

YES, THAT'S LIU BEI!
THEIR MIDDLE IS NOW PASSING UNDER US, LED BY AN IMPORTANT-LOOKING MAN ON A WHITE HORSE.

AS EXPECTED OF SHU'S INFAMOUS TERRAIN. THIS PATH TRULY IS TREACHER-OUS. SAY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE NAME OF THIS VALLEY IS?

WHAT!?

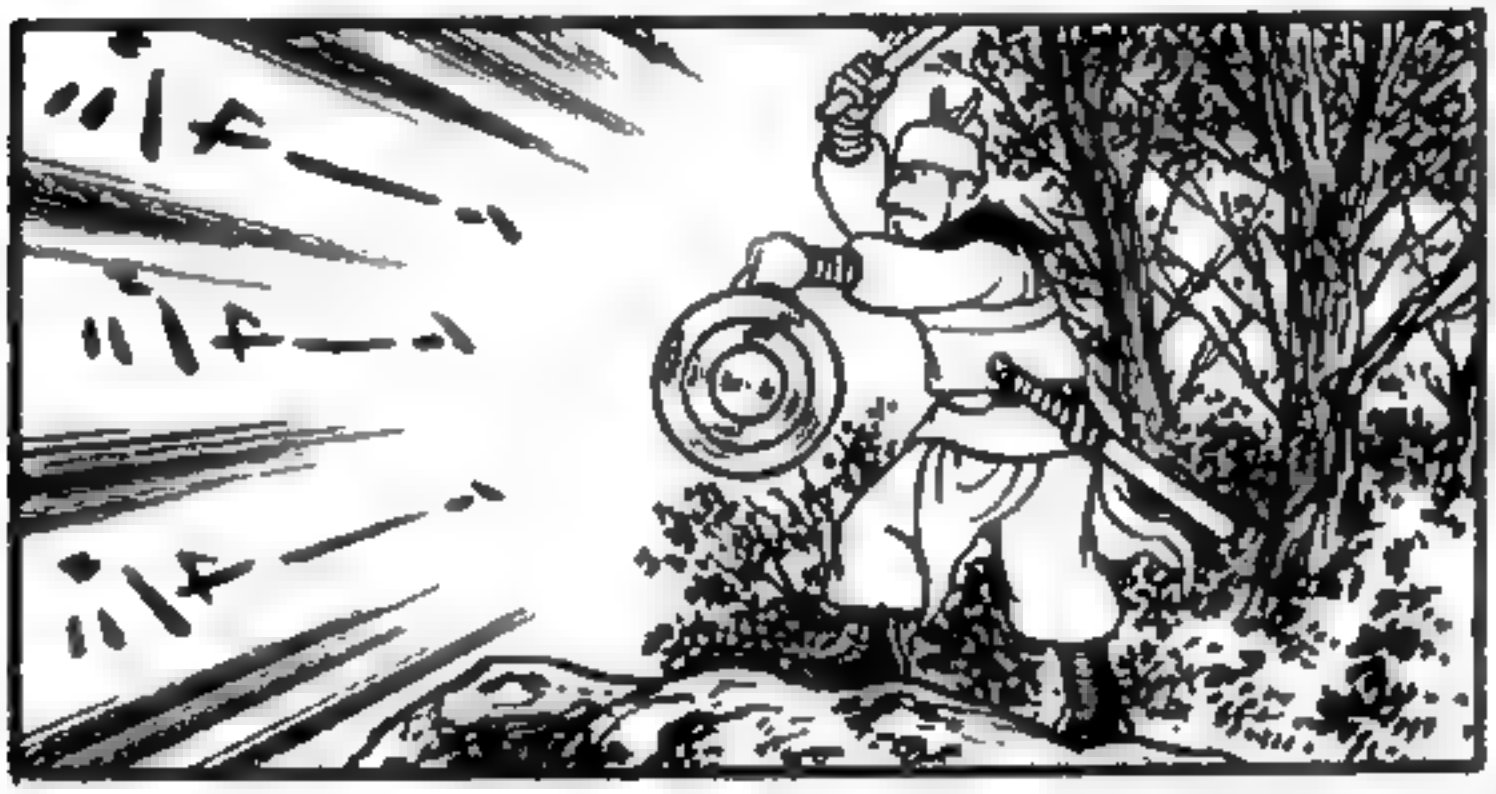
I BELIEVE IT'S CALLED VALLEY OF THE FALLEN PHOENIX.

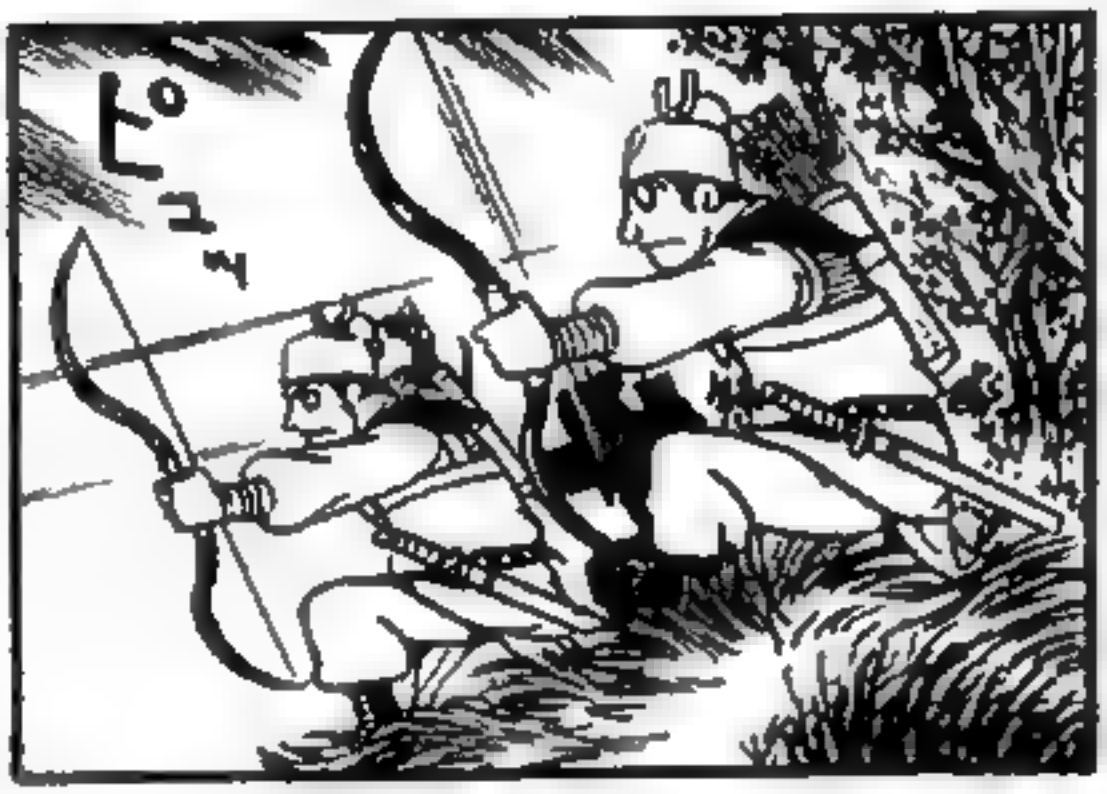
PANG TONG WAS STRUCK BY INEFFABLE ANXIETY. KONGMING'S WARNING, HIS BERSERK HORSE, AND THE VALLEY'S NAME SEEMED TO ALL BE COMING TOGETHER...

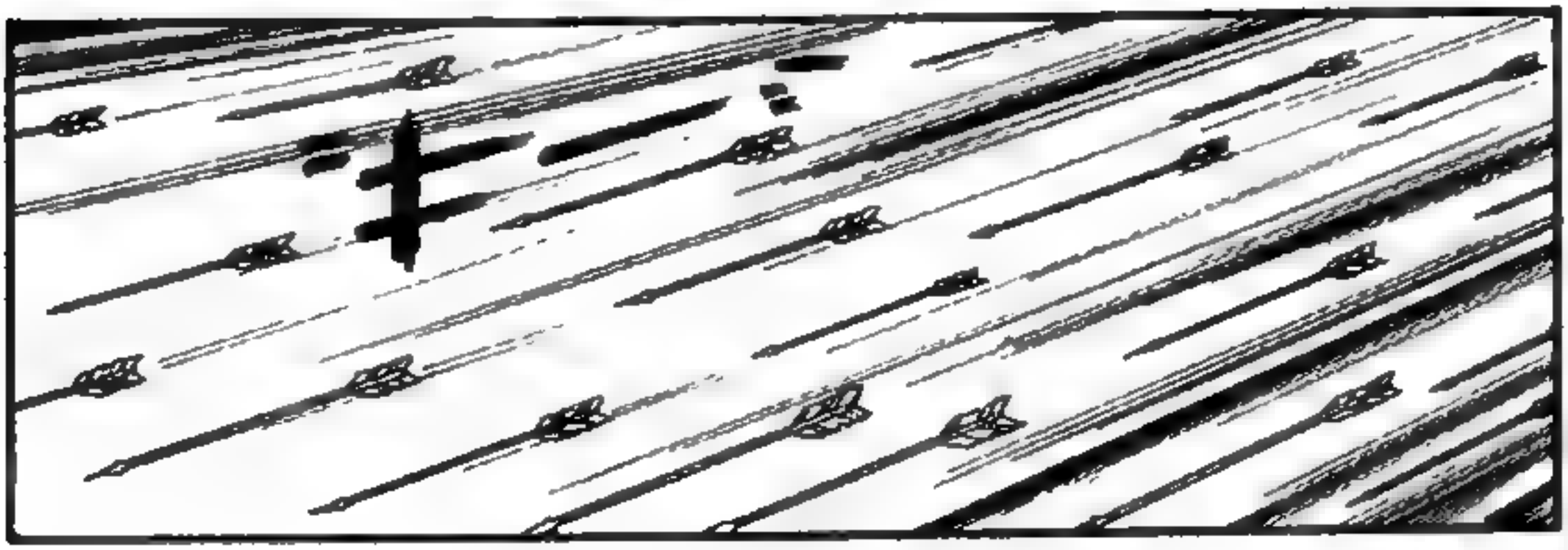
HOW OMINOUS, MY TAOIST NAME HAPPENS TO BE YOUNG PHOENIX...

GOOD, GIVE THE SIGNAL NOW.
HE'S COME TO A STOP, SIR.

STOP!

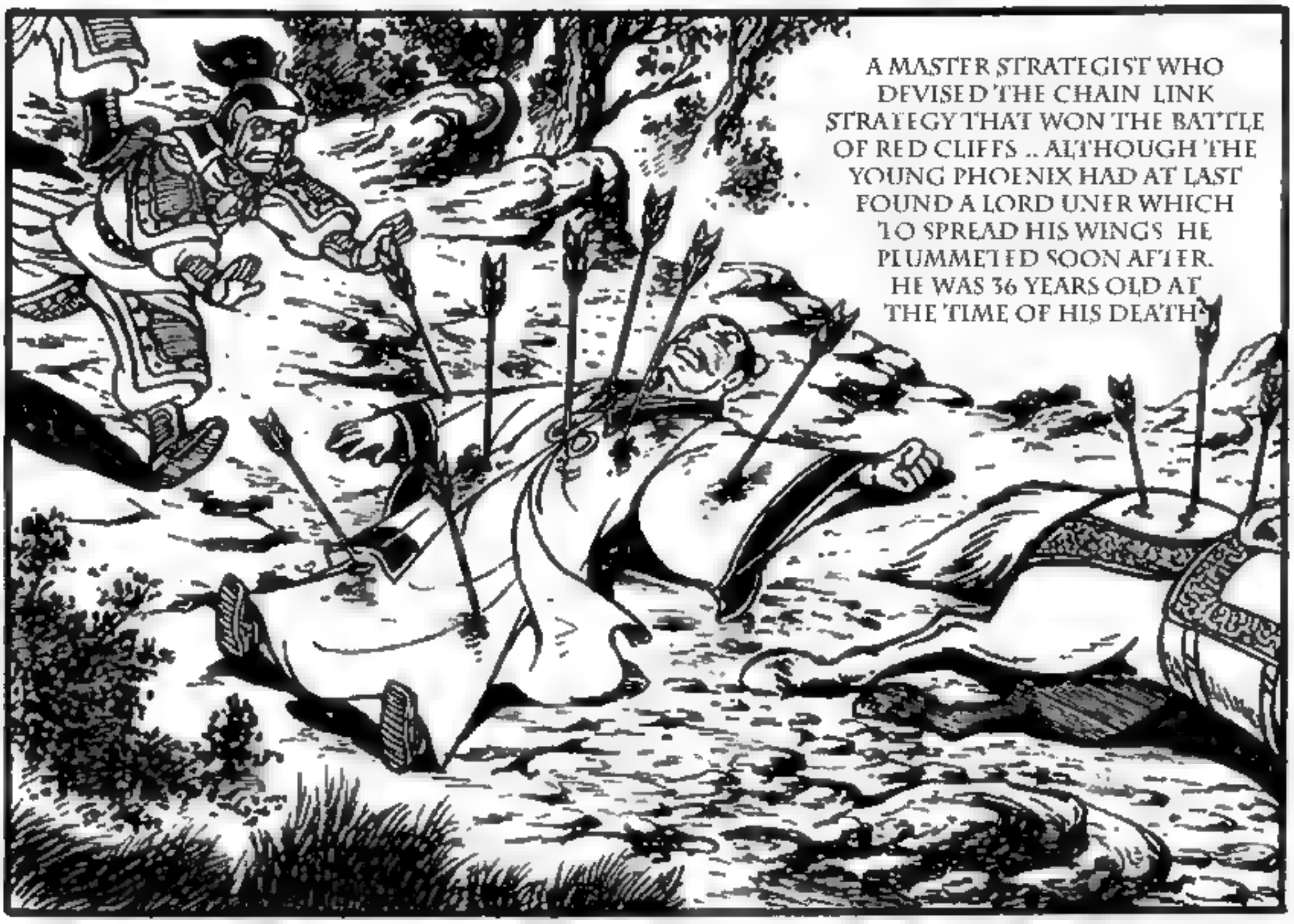




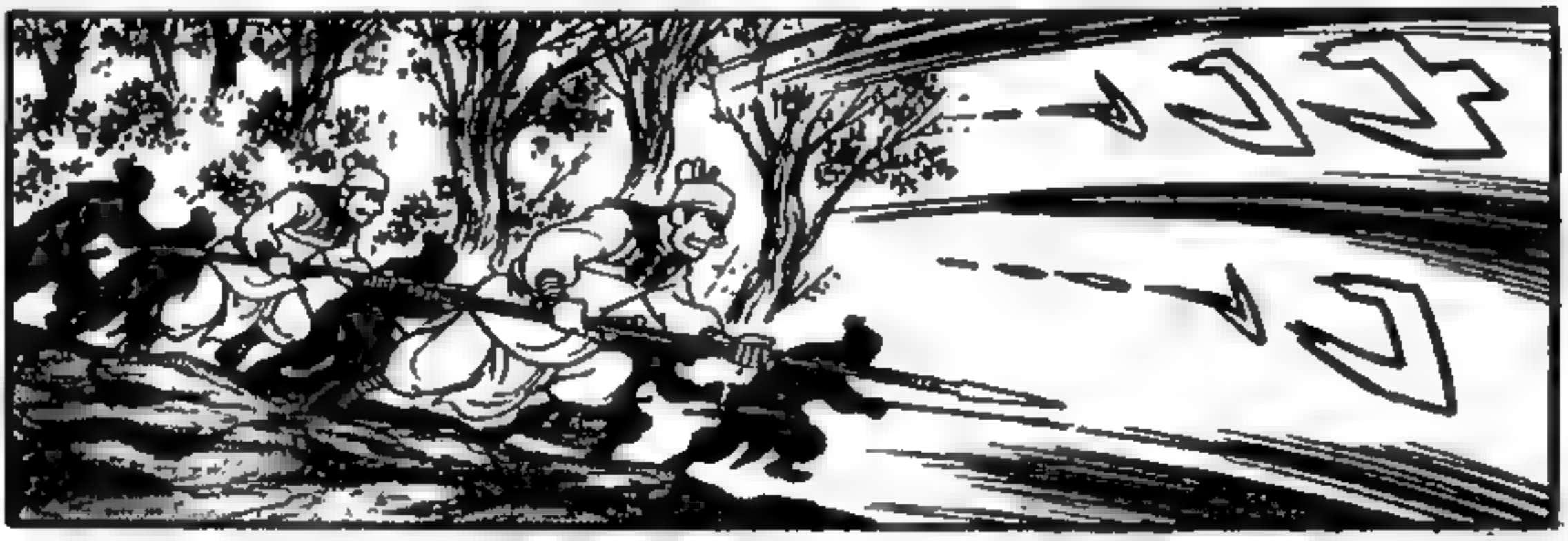


AHH!

SIR!


A MASTER STRATEGIST WHO DEVISED THE CHAIN LINK STRATEGY THAT WON THE BATTLE OF RED CLIFFS .. ALTHOUGH THE YOUNG PHOENIX HAD AT LAST FOUND A LORD UNER WHICH TO SPREAD HIS WINGS HE PLUMMETED SOON AFTER. HE WAS 36 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.

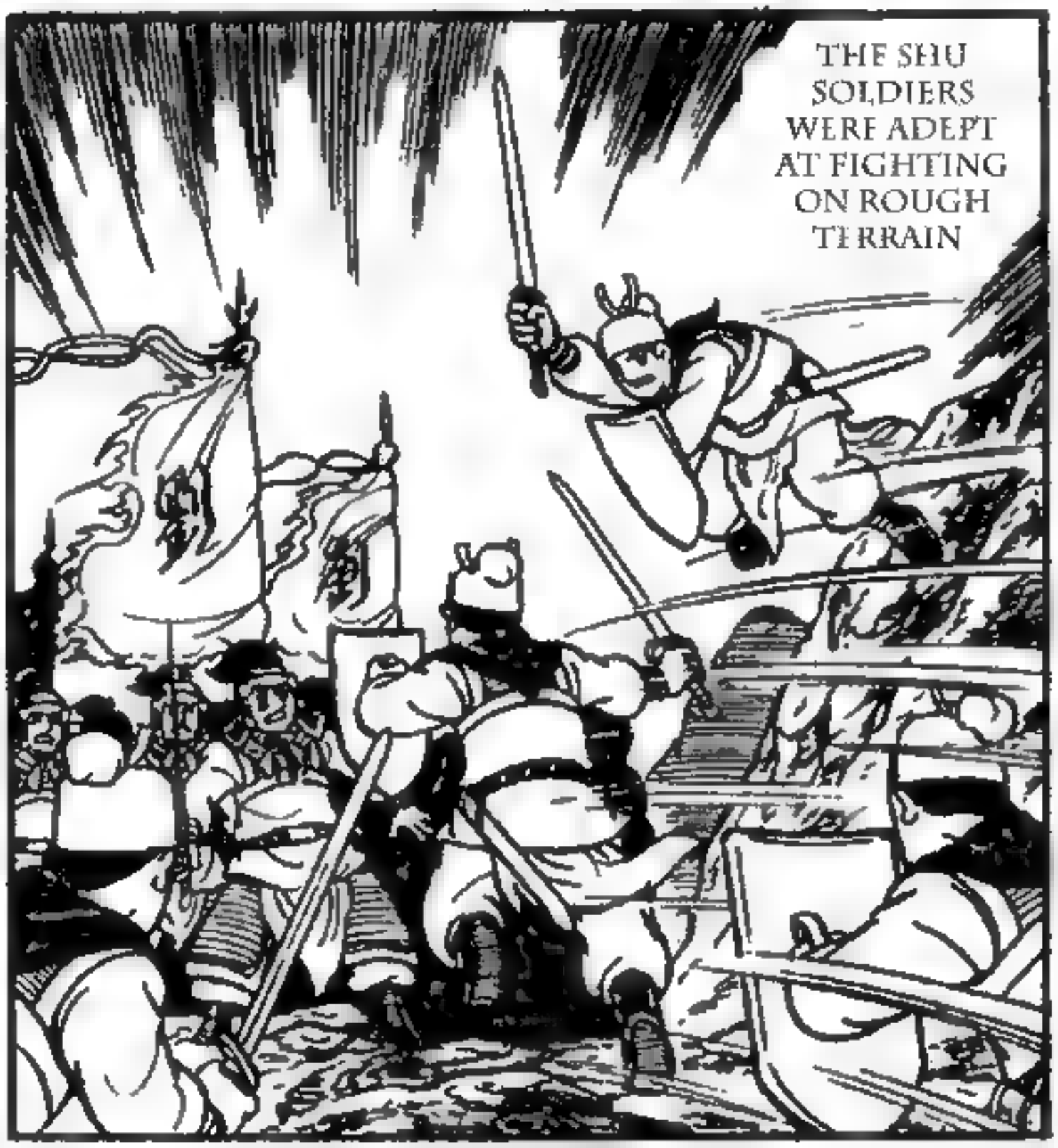
EBBING TIDE



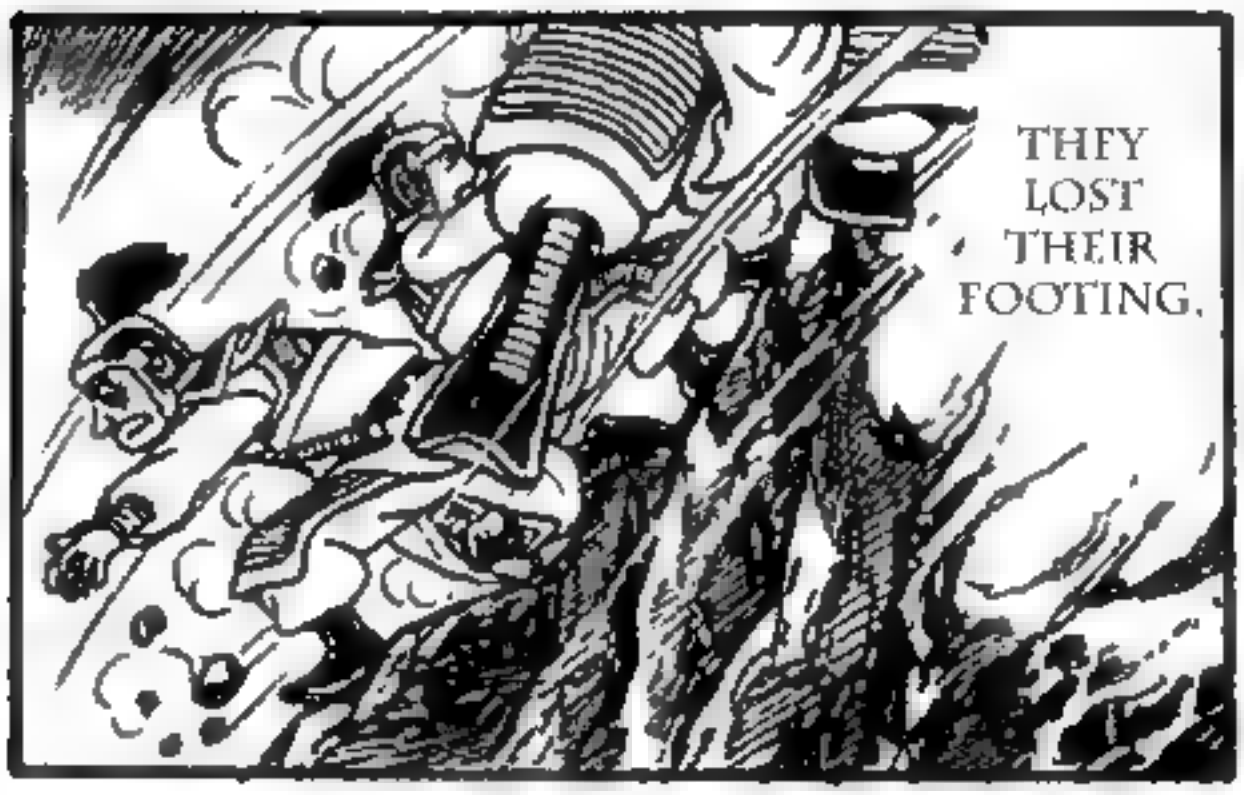
AGHH!

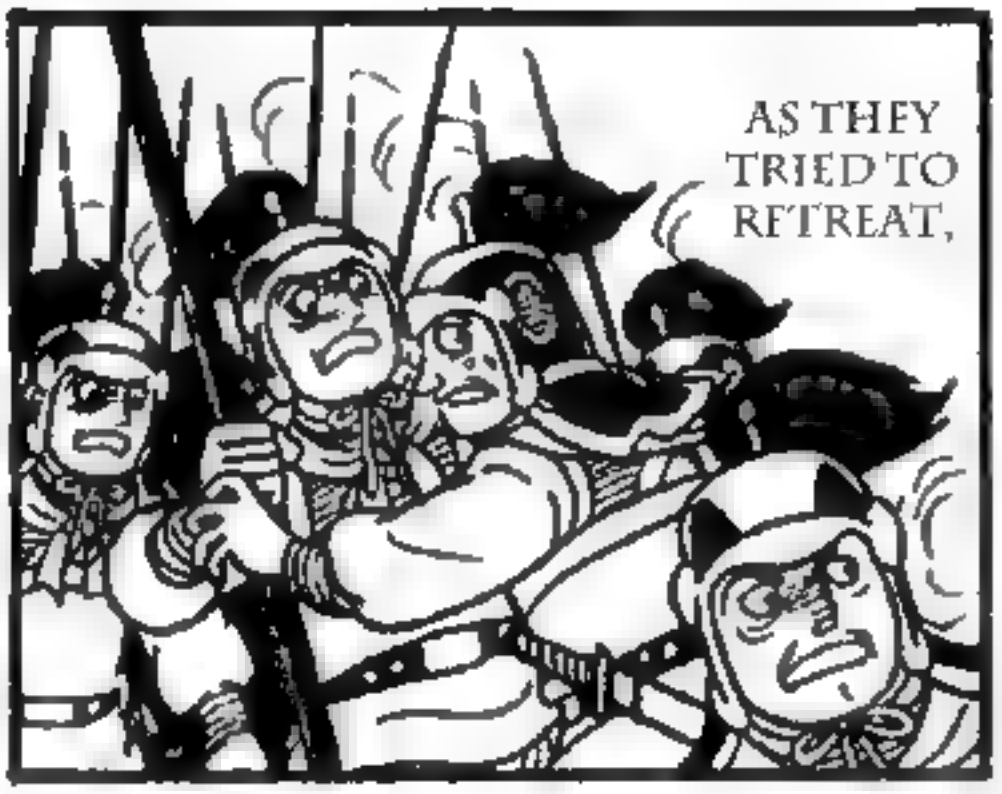
AHH!

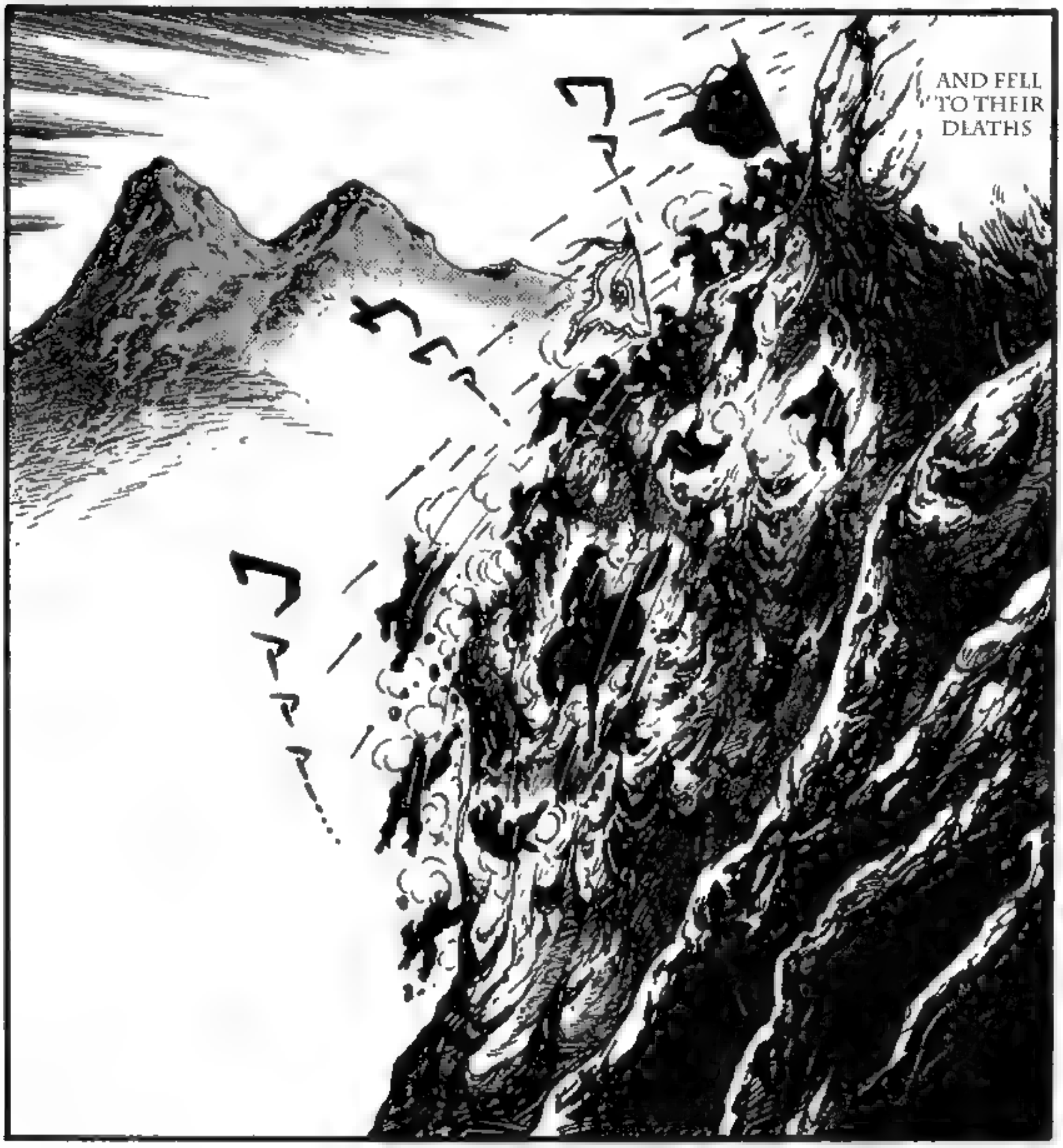
LIKE WILD MONKEYS, THEY LEAPT AT PANG TONG'S TROOPS.


THE SHU SOLDIERS WERE ADEPT AT FIGHTING ON ROUGH TERRAIN

WHO WERE NOW IN A STATE OF PANIC AFTER LOSING THEIR LEADER.


THEY
LOST
THEIR
FOOTING,


AS THEY
TRIED TO
RETREAT,


AND FELL
TO THEIR
DEATHS

WHAT!?

SIR! OUR MIDDLE'S BEEN AMBUSHED!

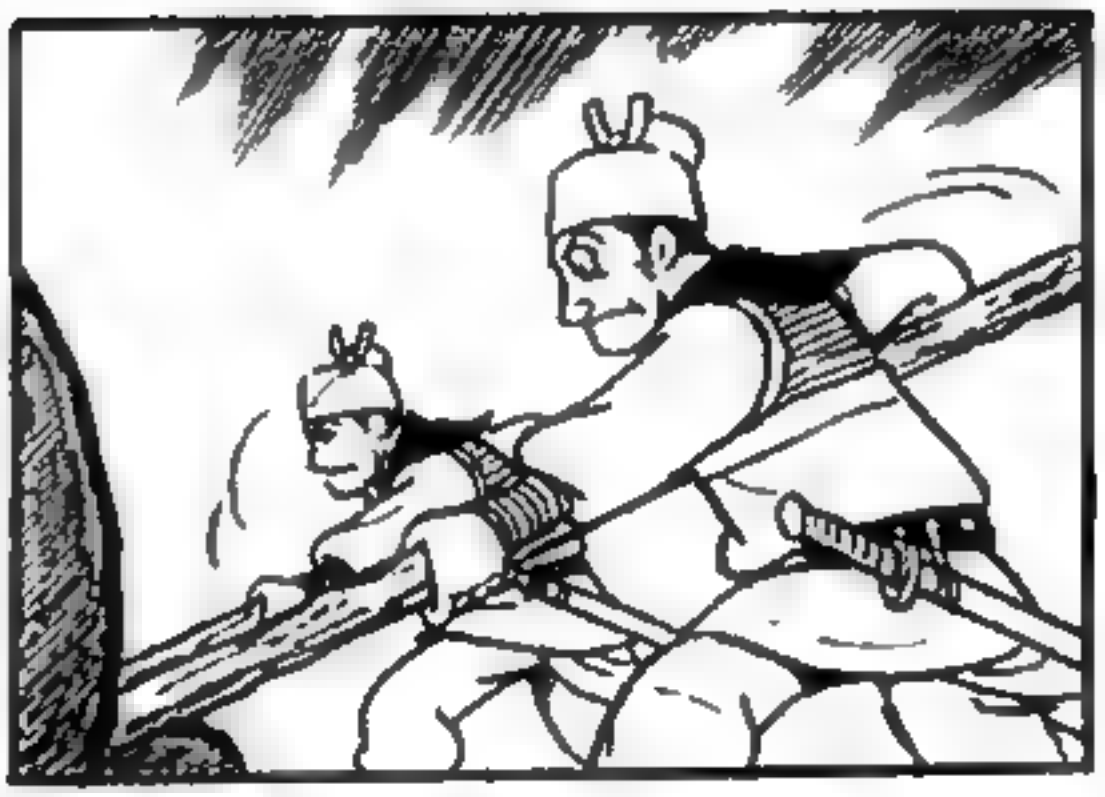
TURN AROUND! WE MUST HELP OUR COMRADES!

THE ENEMIES MUST BE TRYING TO SPLIT US APART...

ドドドドド

NOW!

ゴ
ゴ



AHH!

ヒュッ
ヒュッ

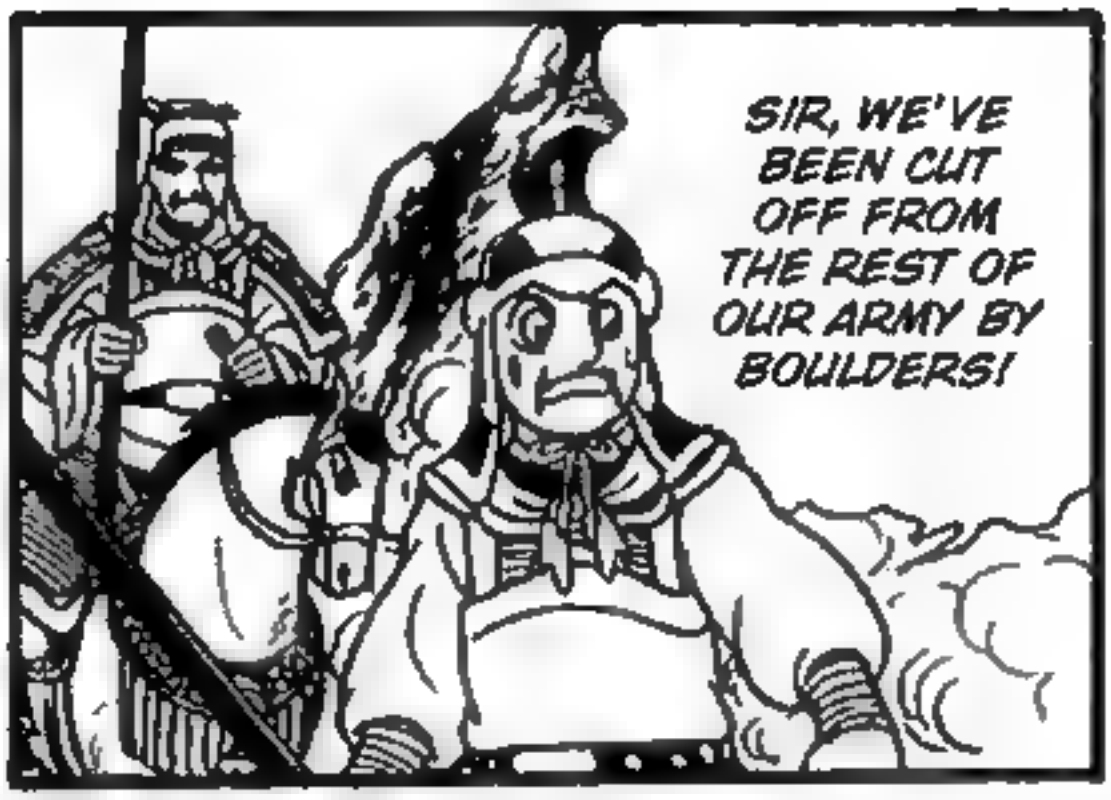
KILL ANY SURVIVORS!

UGH!

ヒュッ

GAH!

DAMN... WE'LL ONLY CONTINUED TO BE PICKED OFF IF WE STAY HERE...


SIR, WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF OUR ARMY BY BOULDERS!

MEN! CHARGE ONWARDS TO LUO! WE'LL REGROUP WITH OUR LORD'S ARMY THERE!

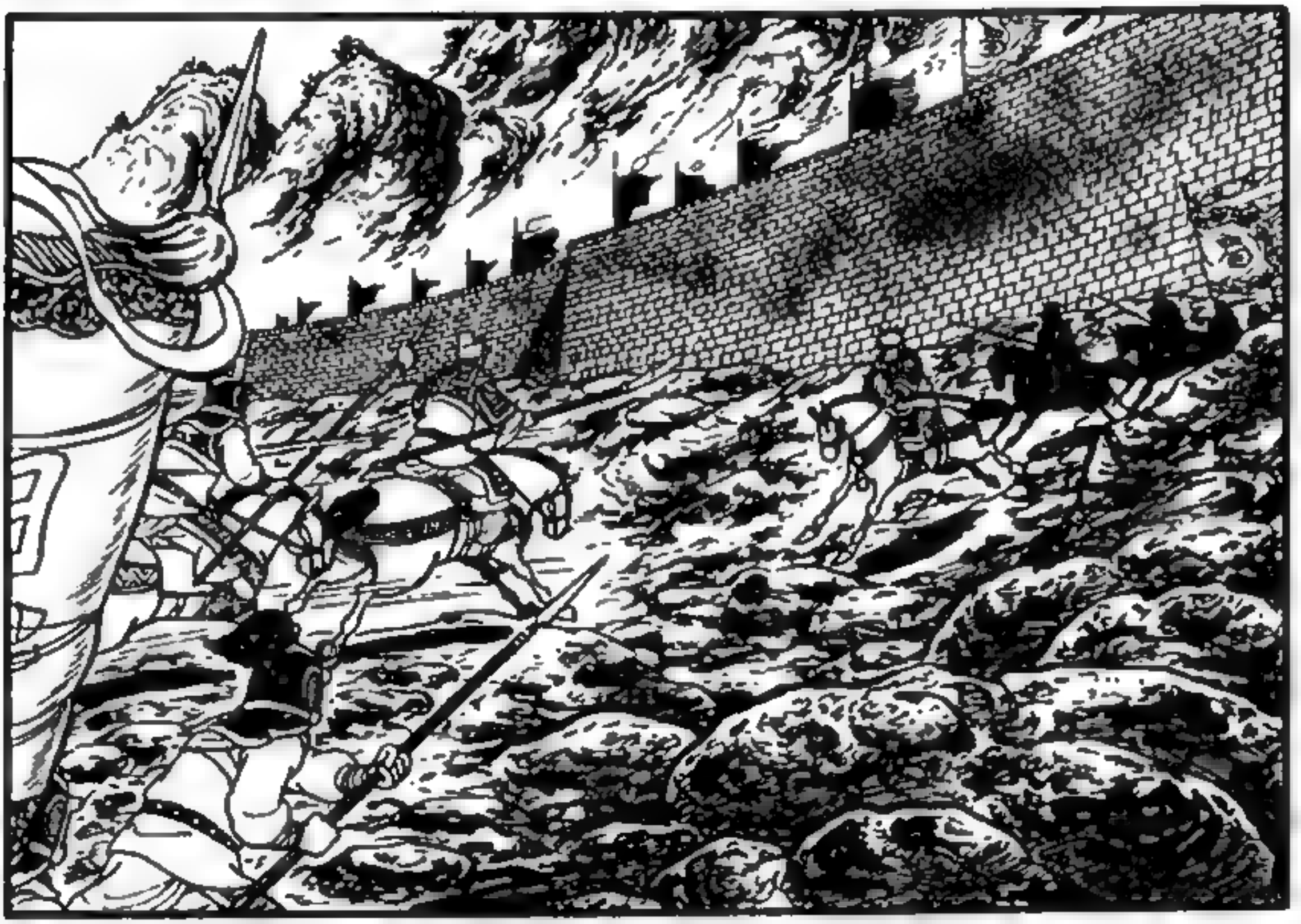
GOOD. THIS TIME, I'LL BE THE ONE TO GIVE THEM A THRASHING.

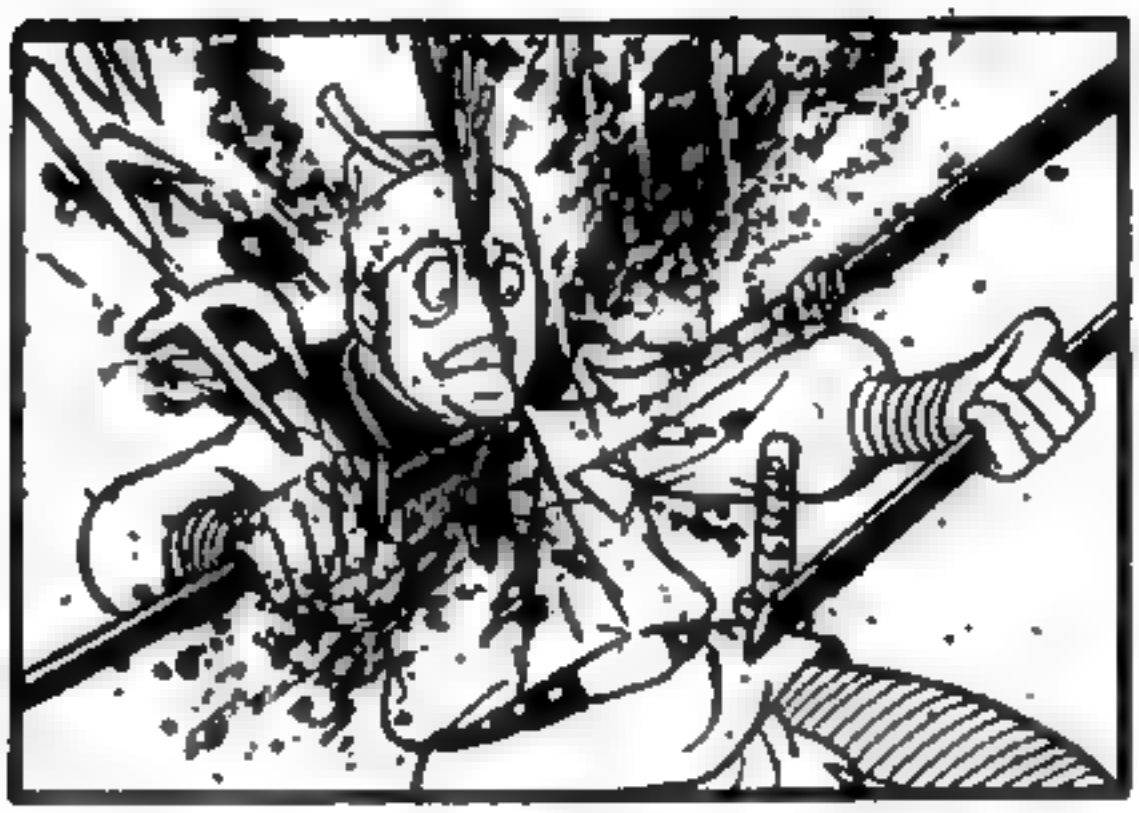
ENEMY TROOPS SPOTTED!

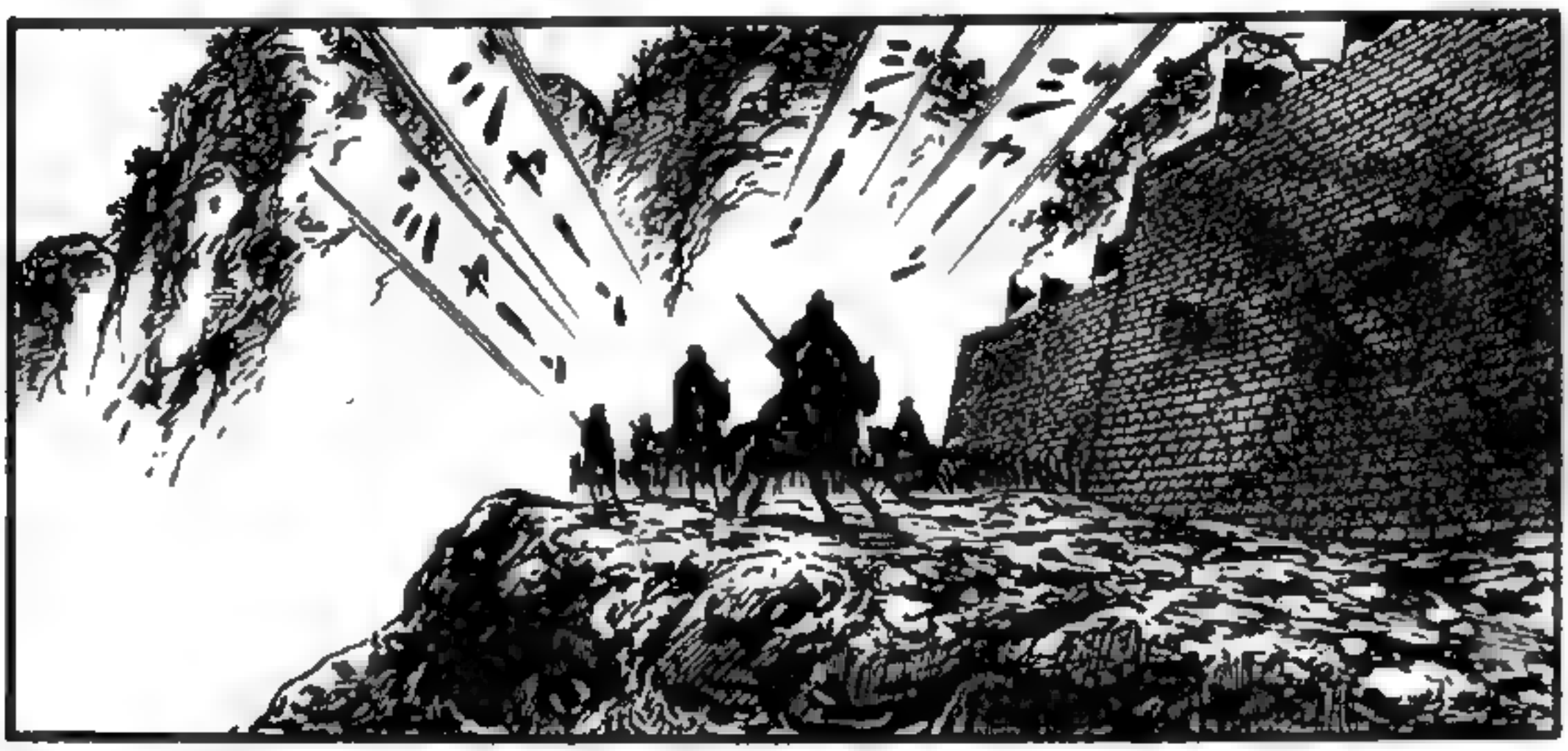
CHARGE!

WE MUST HOLD OUT NO MATTER WHAT UNTIL OUR LORD ARRIVES WITH HIS ARMY!

HERE THEY COME.



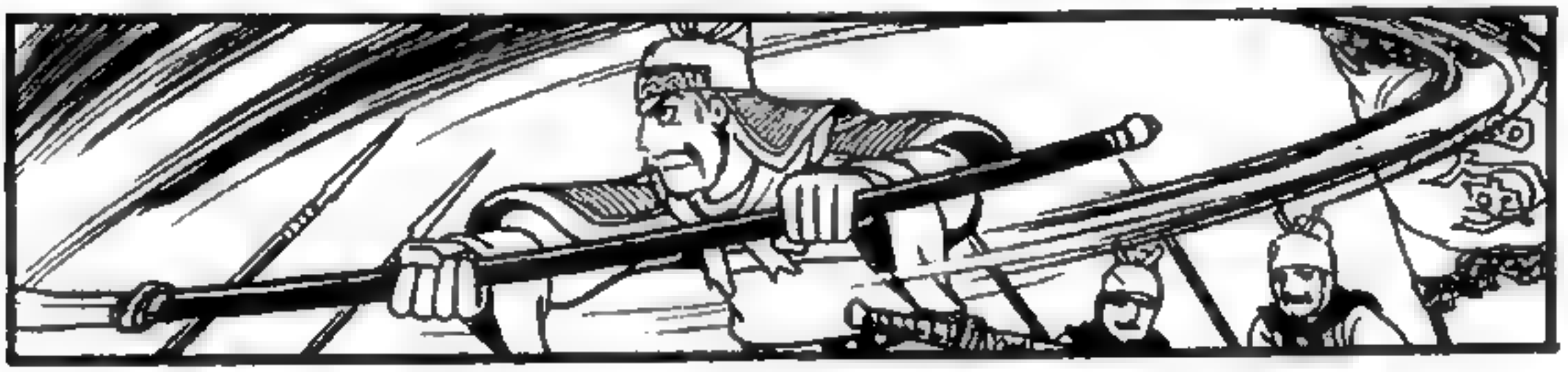


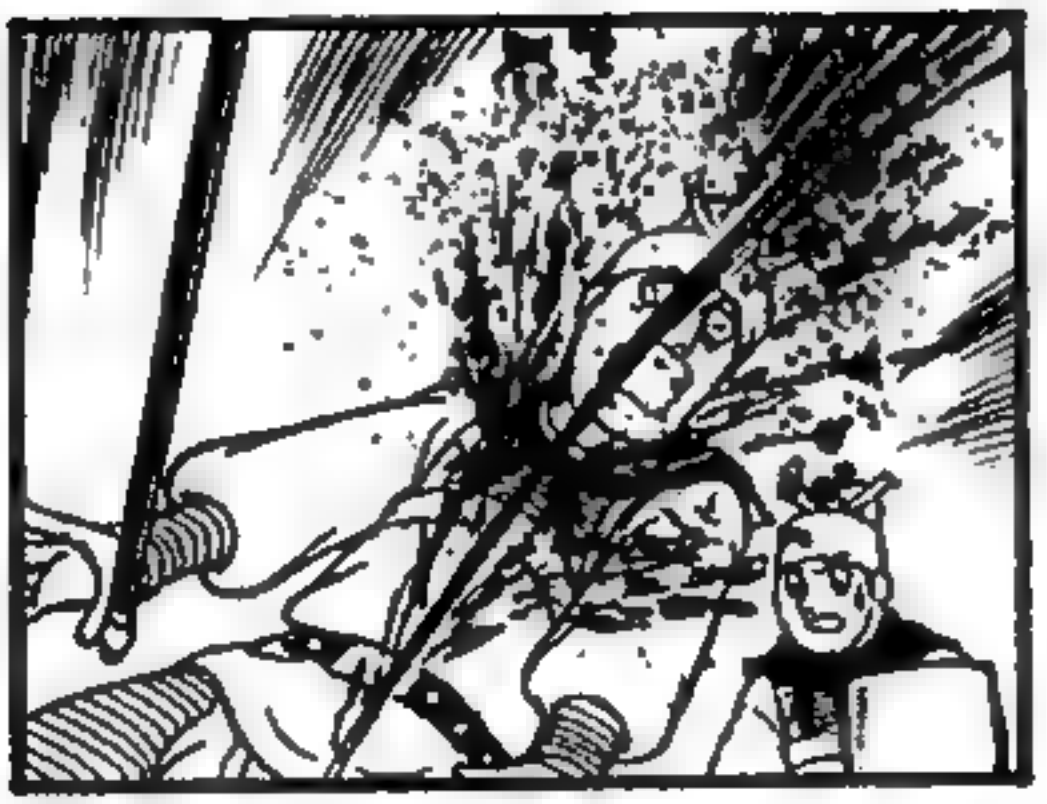


DO NOT FALTER! KEEP FIGHTING!

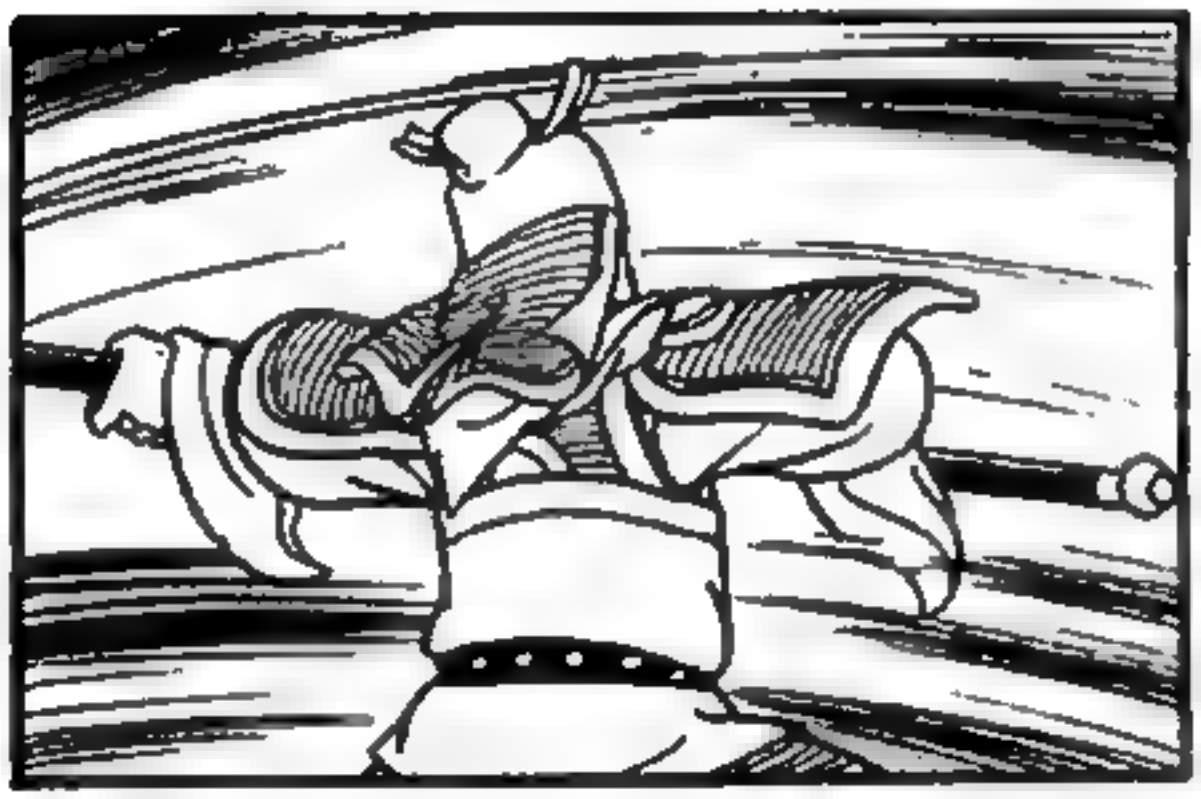
I'M AFRAID IT'S THE ENEMY GENERAL LEI TONG.

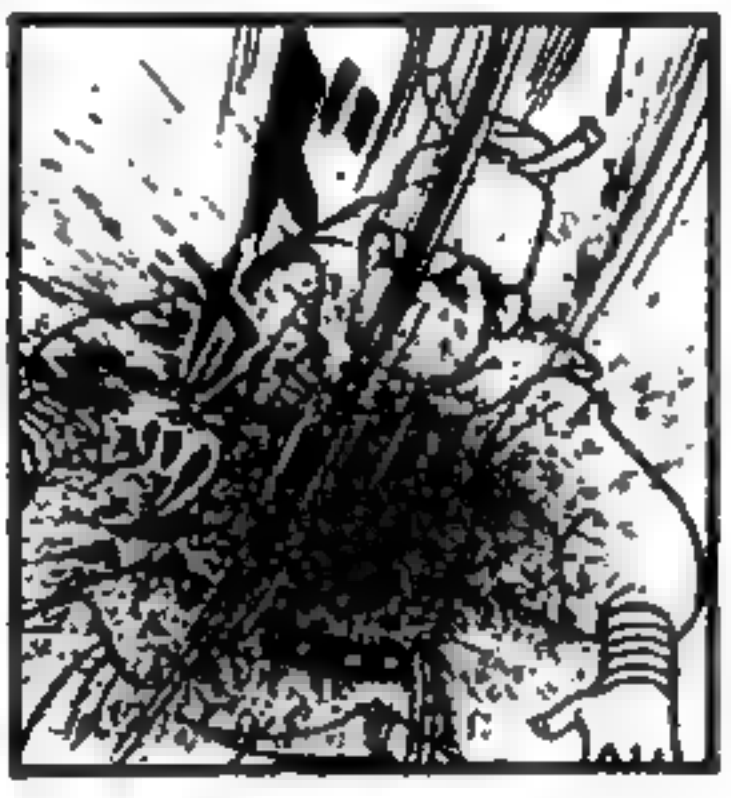
IS THAT OUR LORD?





T-T-T-





FEAR NOT, WEI YAN! HUANG ZHONG HAS ARRIVED!

MORE ENEMIES?

LET'S SAVE OUR COMR-ADES!

HA, IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH!

THE SKIRMISH HAD TRANS FORMED INTO A FULL OUT BATTLE

FALL BACK!

MNN...

THE ENEMIES STILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IN NUMBERS AND TERRAIN. I BELIEVE IT'D BE BEST TO RETREAT.

LIU BEI'S FORCES REGRETTABLY RETREATED ALL THE WAY BACK TO FU RIVER PASS. THEY HAD SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES AND LOST A COMMANDER WITHOUT GAINING ANYTHING

HE...

THAT'S STRANGE. WHERE'S PANG TONG?

PANG TONG HAS...

WHY, WHAT HAPPENED!?

F-F-F... FATALLY!?

HE WAS FATALLY STRUCK BY ARROWS WHEN WE WERE AMBUSHED AT THE VALLEY OF FALLEN PHOENIX...

PANG TONG IS...

PANG TONG IS DEAD...?

.....

.....

.....

YES, WE SHOULD ATTEMPT ANOTHER ATTACK ON LUO RIGHT AWAY.

WE MUST AVENGE HIS DEATH, MY LORD.

BEFORE COMING HERE, I HEARD MANY RUMOURS THAT SHU WAS DOOMED TO FALL, THAT IT LACKED BRAVE SOLDIERS OR CAPABLE LEADERS. BUT I NOW SEE THAT WAS ENTIRELY UNTRUE.

YOU MEAN SIT STILL!?

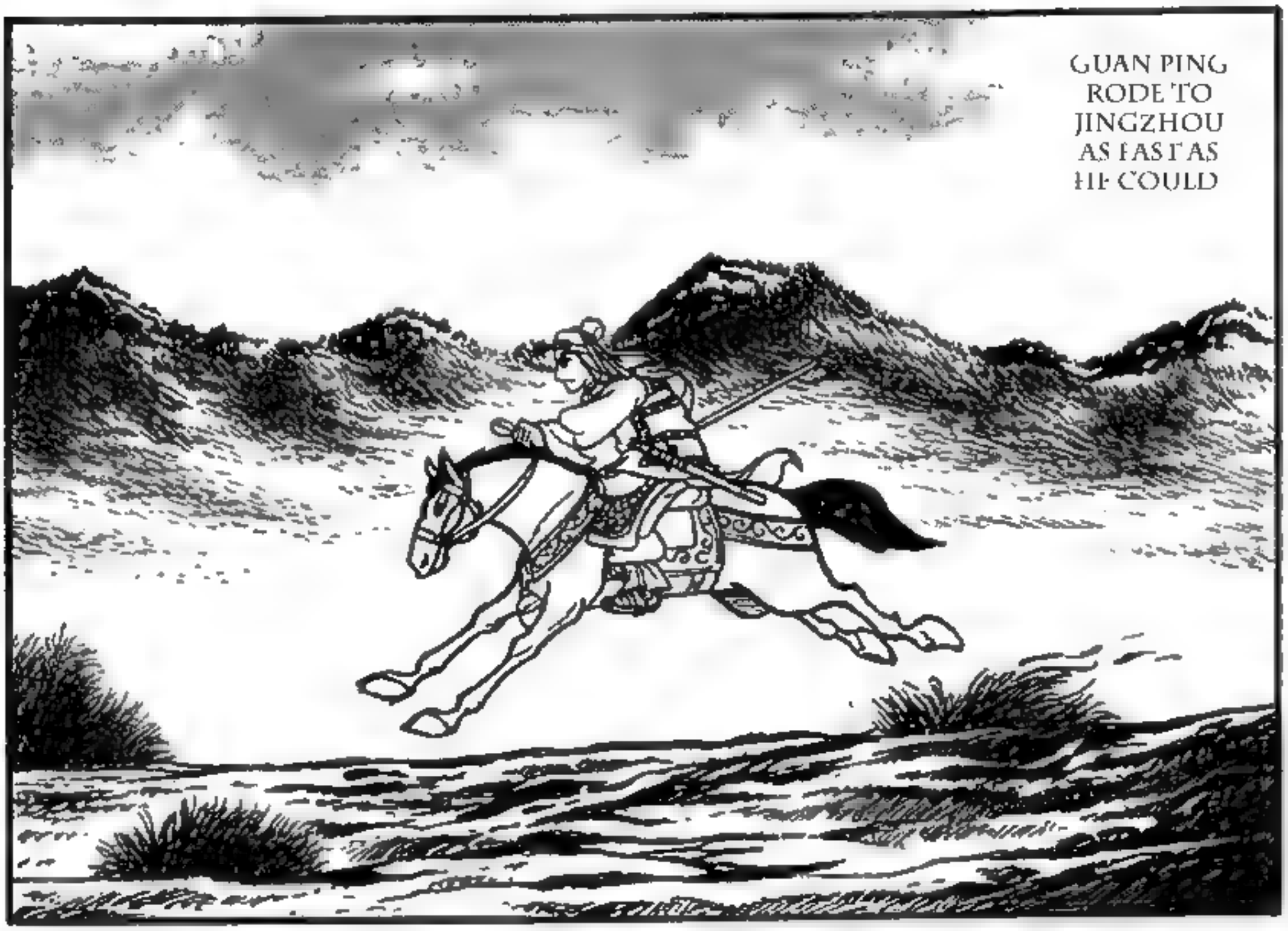
I FULLY UNDER-STAND YOUR PAIN BUT WE MUST BE PATIENT FOR NOW.

IF ONLY I HAD PAID MORE HEED TO KONGMING'S LETTER, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED...

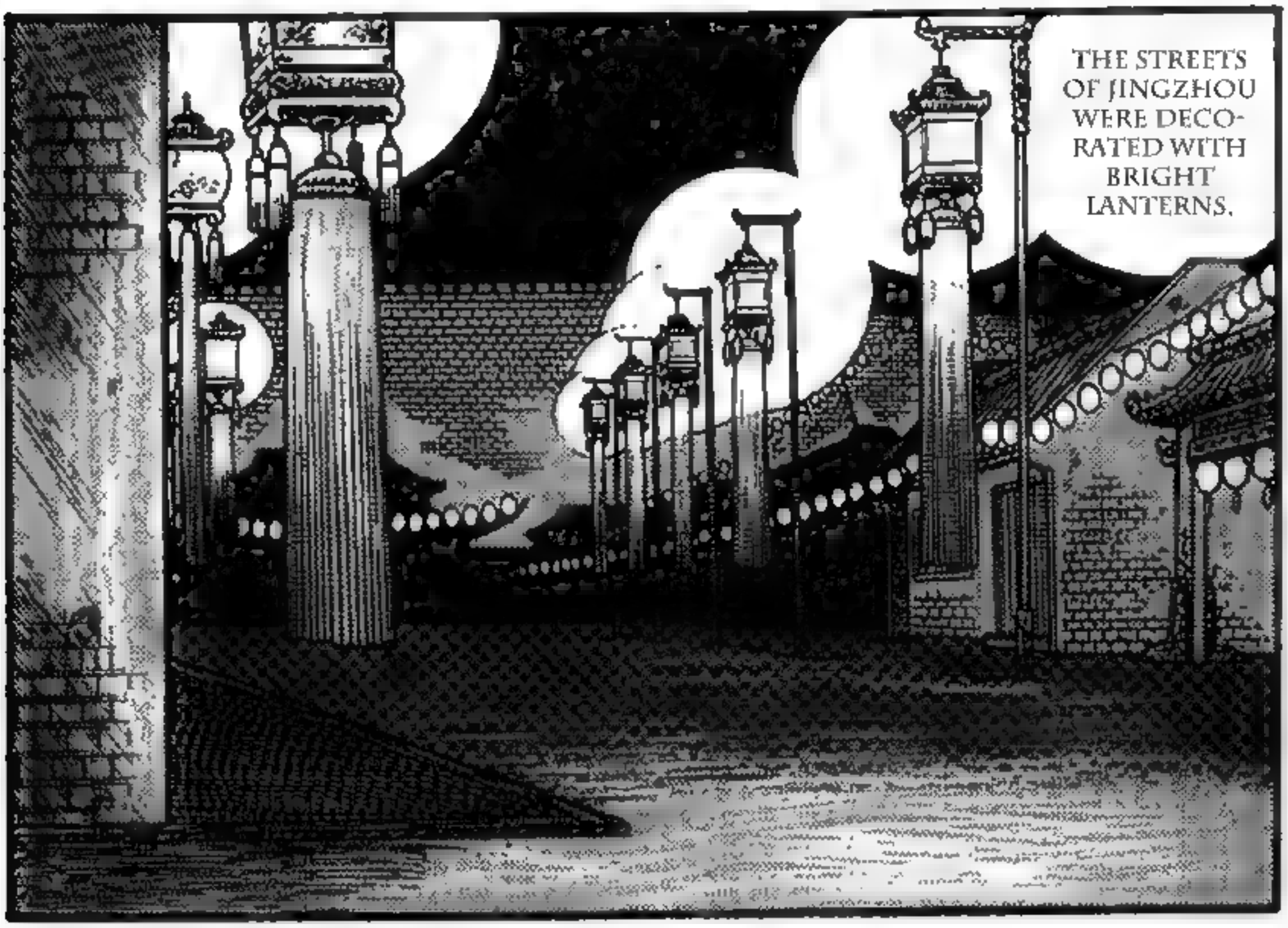
YES?

GUAN PING.

YES, SIR.
RETURN TO JINGZHOU AND ASK KONGMING TO COME ASSIST US AT ONCE.


GUAN PING RODE TO JINGZHOU AS FAST AS HE COULD

FALLING STAR



AND ALL THE OFFICERS AND MINISTERS WERE IN THE MIDST OF A BANQUET

?

AH!

?

?

THE FALLING STAR JUST NOW WAS A GENERAL'S STAR...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

GENTLEMEN, I MUST ASK YOU TO REMAIN ON STANDBY HERE IN JINGZHOU FOR A FEW DAYS. I'M AFRAID WE'LL BE RECEIVING TRAGIC NEWS SHORTLY...

ONE WEEK LATER, GUAN PING HAD ARRIVED AT JINGZHOU.

PANG TONG HAS PERISHED IN BATTLE, AND OUR LORD HAS SECLUDED HIMSELF IN FU RIVER PASS, NEITHER ABLE TO ADVANCE NOR WITHDRAW.

I BRING YOU THIS LETTER FROM HIM.

BUT NOW IS NO TIME TO MOURN. OUR LORD IS IN DANGER.

I SEE... PANG TONG HAS LEFT THIS REALM WITHOUT FULLY SPREADING HIS WINGS...

GENTLEMEN, I MUST LEAVE FOR SHU IMMEDIATELY BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN AFFORD TO LEAVE JINGZHOU EMPTY.

I'M AFRAID I CANNOT JUST SIT HERE AFTER HEARING MY LORD IS IN MORTAL PERIL.

GUAN YU, I ASK YOU TO REMAIN HERE WITH YOUR SON GUAN PING AND DEFEND AGAINST ANY ATTACKS FROM CAO CAO OR SUN QUAN.

THAT IS PRECISELY WHY YOU MUST STAY HERE. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF HOLDING JINGZHOU AND IF YOU TRULY WISH TO SAVE OUR LORD, YOU'LL REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THIS TASK IS. RECALL THE OATH AT THE PEACH GARDEN YOU MADE LONG AGO.

NOW IF CAO CAO AND SUN QUAN WERE TO ATTACK AT THE SAME TIME, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

YES, I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY. FORGIVE MY EARLIER STUBBORNNESS.

UNTIL DEATH...

I WILL SPLIT MY FORCES IN TWO AND REPEL THEM AS HARD AS I CAN UNTIL I DIE.

LET ME GIVE YOU EIGHT WORDS OF ADVICE. PLEASE REMEMBER IT WELL.

A MAN AS IMPORTANT AS YOU MUST NOT THINK LIGHTLY OF HIS LIFE.

YES, SIR.

IF YOU CANNOT FOLLOW THIS GOLDEN RULE, JINGZHOU WILL BE IN PERIL.

NORTH: REPEL CAO CAO. EAST: APPEASE SUN QUAN.*

*北拒曹操, 東和孫權

GLADLY!

AS FOR YOU, ZHANG FEI, YOU ARE TO TAKE 10,000 SOLDIERS AND HEAD WEST TO LUO BY PASSING THROUGH BAZHOU.

YES, SIR.

ZHAO ZILONG, I WANT YOU TO LEAD MY VANGUARD BY TAKING THE WATER ROUTE UP THE YANGTZE RIVER.

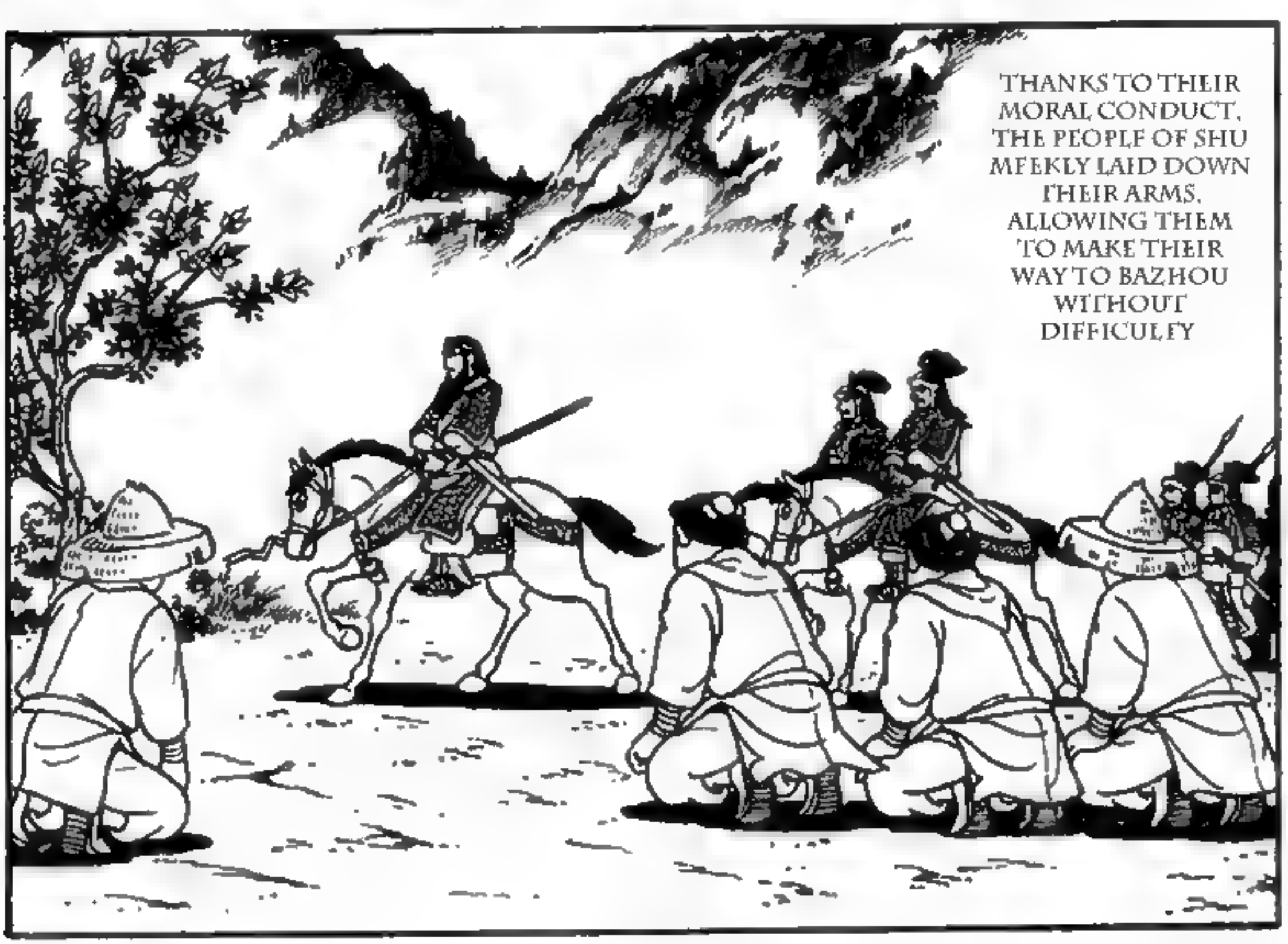
YES, SIR.

AND A STRONG WORD TO YOU, ZHANG FEI! YOU ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FROM PILLAGING AND COMMITTING ANY ACT OF WANTON CRUELTY ON THE CIVILIANS OF SHU. IF WE ARE TO CONQUER SHU, WE MUST WIN OVER THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS AS WELL.

DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN FORCES THEY NOW HEADED FOR SHU

張

TRUE TO HIS WORD, ZHANG FEI AND HIS SOLDIERS REFRAINED FROM ANY ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY.


THANKS TO THEIR MORAL CONDUCT, THE PEOPLE OF SHU MEEKLY LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS, ALLOWING THEM TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO BAZHOU WITHOUT DIFFICULTY

BAZHOU

SEND HIM IN.

SIR, THE ENEMY GENERAL ZHANG FEI HAS SENT A MESSENGER.

DEFENDING BAZHOU WAS THE RENOWNED SHU GENERAL YAN YAN

GENERAL ZHANG FEI PROMISES HE SHALL NOT HARM YOU OR BAZHOU'S CITIZENS IF YOU OPEN YOUR GATES AND SURRENDER.

STATE YOUR BUSINESS.

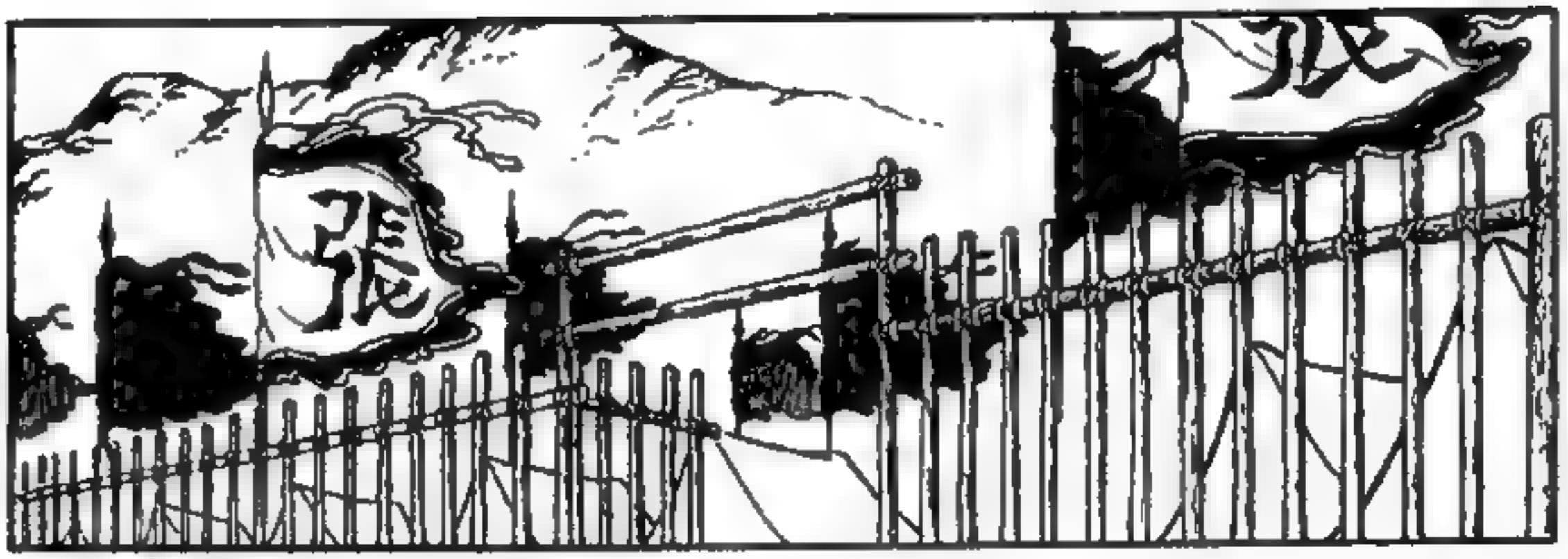
FLOG THIS MAN!

HAHA, THIS LITTLE MUTT'S GOT QUITE THE BARK, I'LL ADMIT.

TELL THAT ARROGANT GENERAL OF YOURS THAT THIS IS YAN YAN'S RESPONSE!

W-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?

RUN AWAY BACK TO JINGZHOU WHERE YOU CAME FROM!


HE DARES TO SLIGHT ME? THE MAN WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY SENT CAO CAO'S MILLION-MAN ARMY FLEEING AT CHANGBAN BRIDGE!?
WHAT!? HE FLOGGED YOU!?
GET READY TO ATTACK, MEN! WE'LL PLAY IT HIS WAY THEN!

HAHA, LET THE STUBBORN BOARS CHARGE OUR WALLS. WE'LL FEED THEM ARROWS WHEN THEY COME NEAR.

SIR! THE ENEMIES ARE ATTACKING!

DON'T TRIP YOURSELVES WHEN YOU TRY TO CLIMB IT!

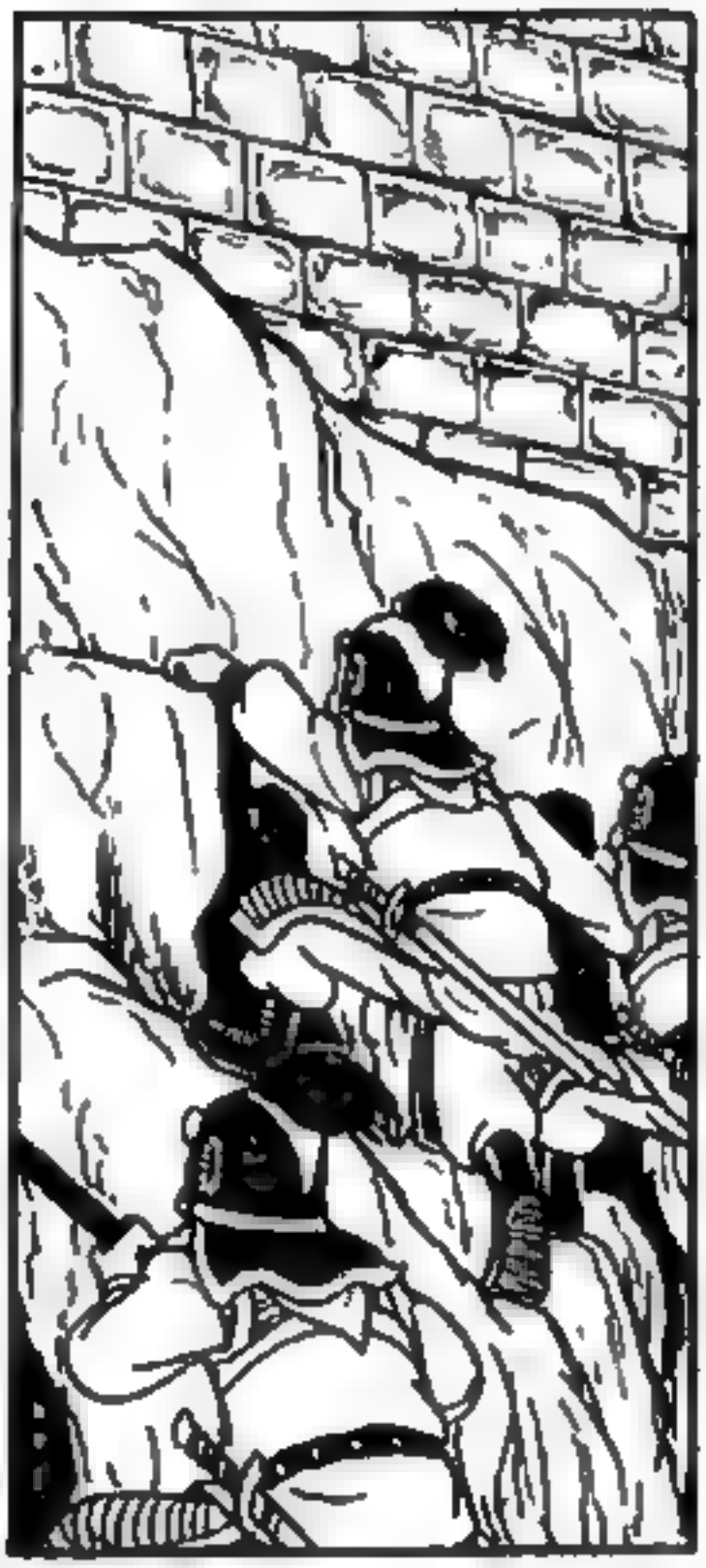
HEY, YOU LITTLE RUNTS! HOW D'YA LIKE OUR WALLS!?

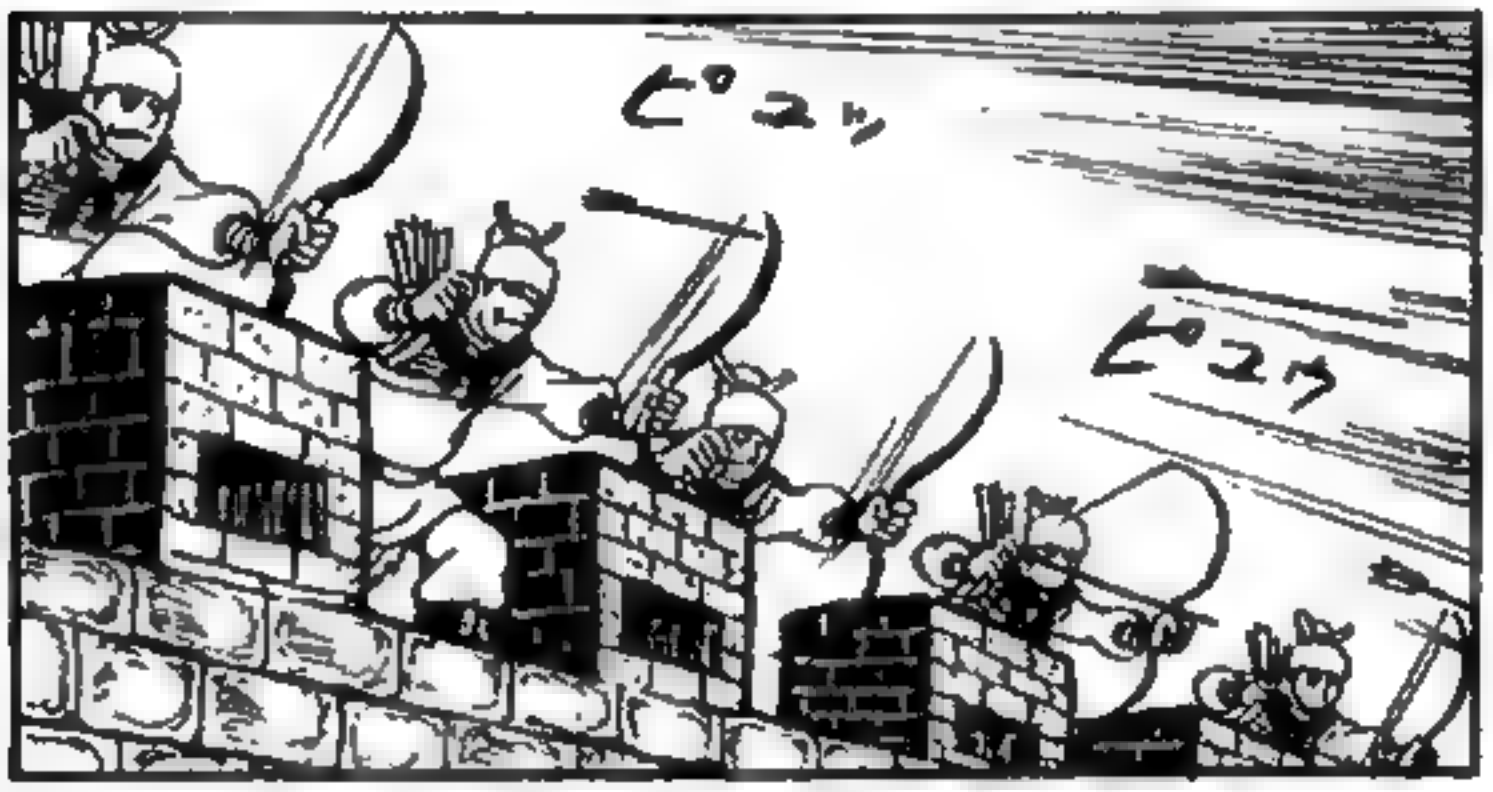
CROSS THE MOAT AND SCALE THE WALLS!

THOSE SONS OF BITCHES...

WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE A LITTLE CLOSER.

NOW!




ﾋﾟｭｯ
ﾋﾟｭｯ

NGHH!

AHH!

蜀

HOLY...

RETREAT!

I NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL IN TAKING THIS CITY.

WHAT AIM... HE COULD'VE KILLED ME JUST NOW.

RETREAT BACK TO CAMP!

HAHA, SO THE BRUTE CAN ACTUALLY LEARN A THING OR TWO, CAN HE NOW?

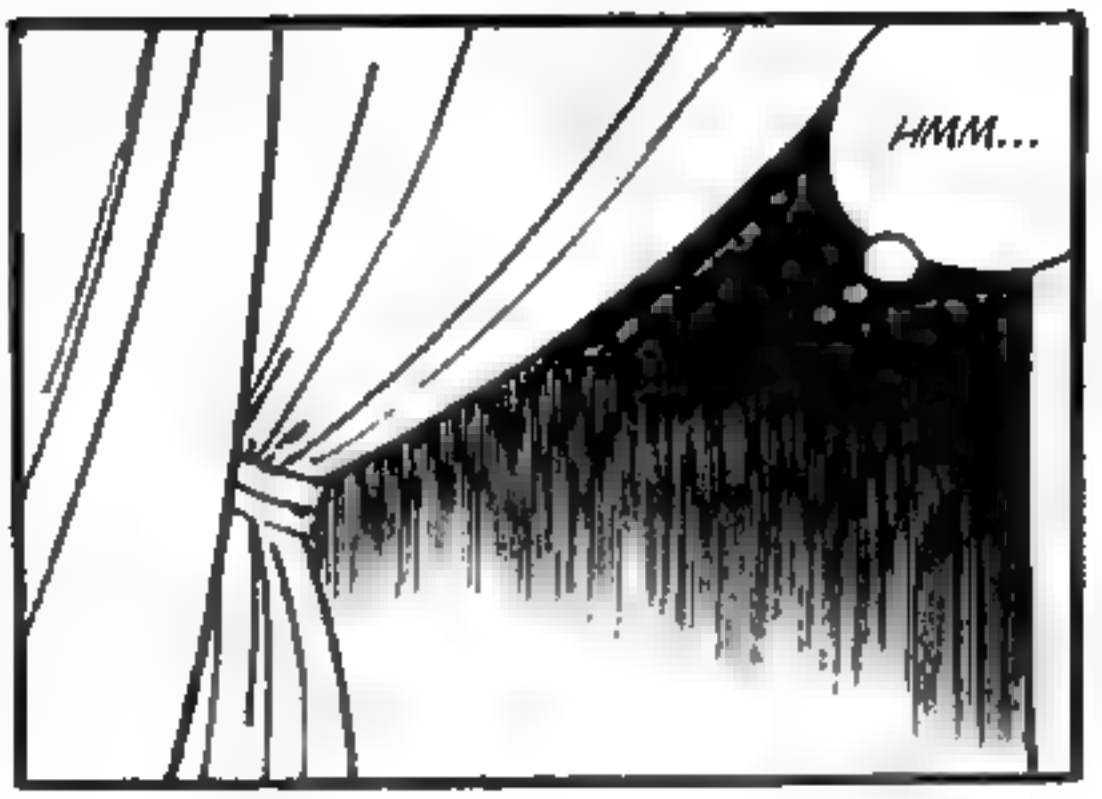
UNDERSTOOD, GENERAL.

AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHEN WE'LL STRIKE. UNDERSTOOD?

DO NOT OPEN THE GATES NO MATTER WHAT. THIS WILL BE A TEST OF FORTITUDE. AS LONG AS WE CAN HOLD OUT IN HERE, THE ENEMIES ARE BOUND TO RUN OUT OF SUPPLIES AND RETREAT.

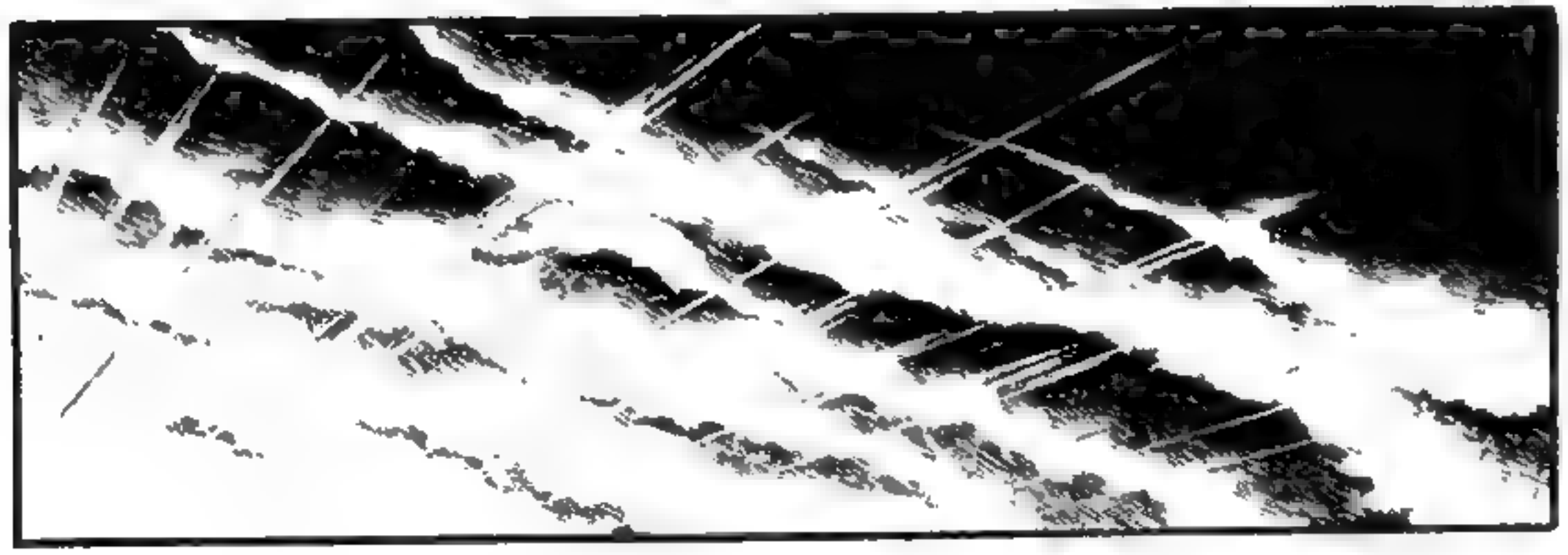
WE'LL CONTINUE TO EGG THEM ON FROM THE WALLS AS TO EXHAUST THEM OUT QUICKER.

ENEMY SOLDIERS ARE NOTHING TO FEAR BUT IT'S ANOTHER MATTER IF THEY REFUSE TO FIGHT...


HMM...

PERHAPS I'LL TRY ANGERING THEM TOMORROW...

I HAVE TO LURE THEM OUT BUT HOW...?



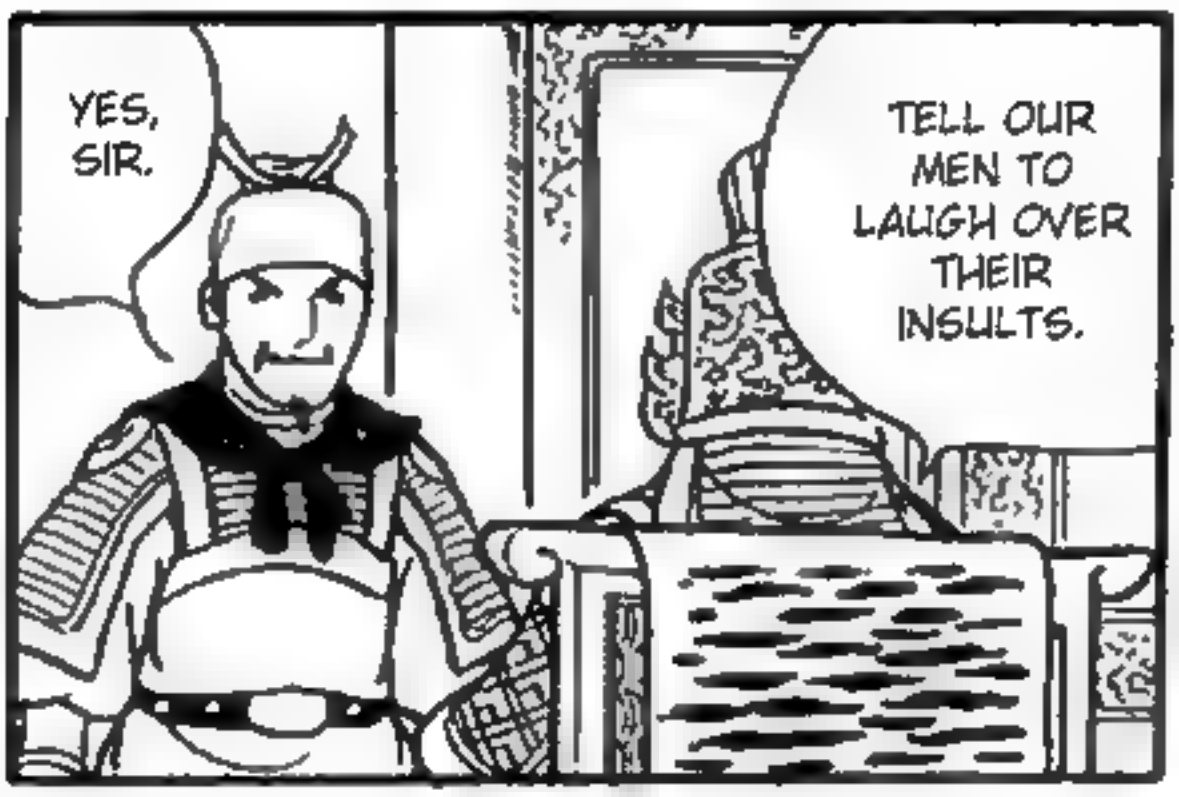
IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU GUTLESS CHICKENS HAVEN'T BEEN CONQUERED BY ANYONE YET.

I NEVER IMAGINED THE MEN OF SHU WOULD BE *THIS* COWARDLY!

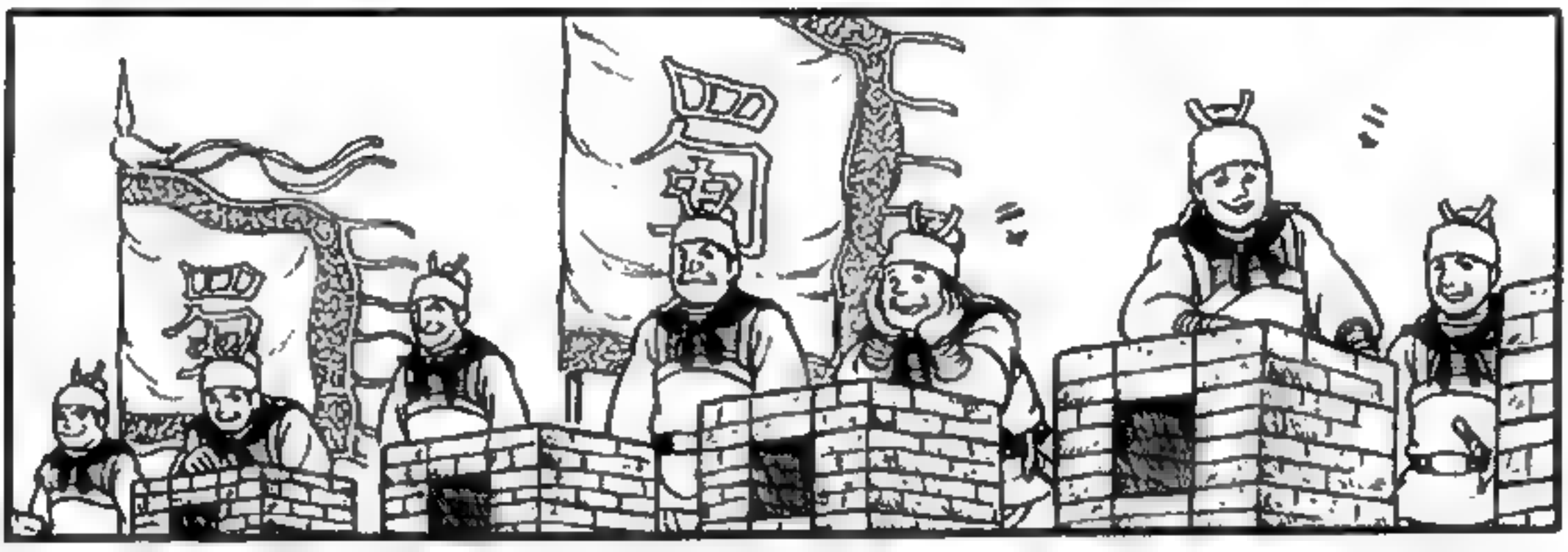
COME OUT AND FIGHT IF YOU'VE GOT THE BALLS!

HA, AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT AT LURING US OUT!

THE ENEMIES ARE POURING ALL KINDS OF INSULTS, SIR.


YES, SIR.
TELL OUR MEN TO LAUGH OVER THEIR INSULTS.

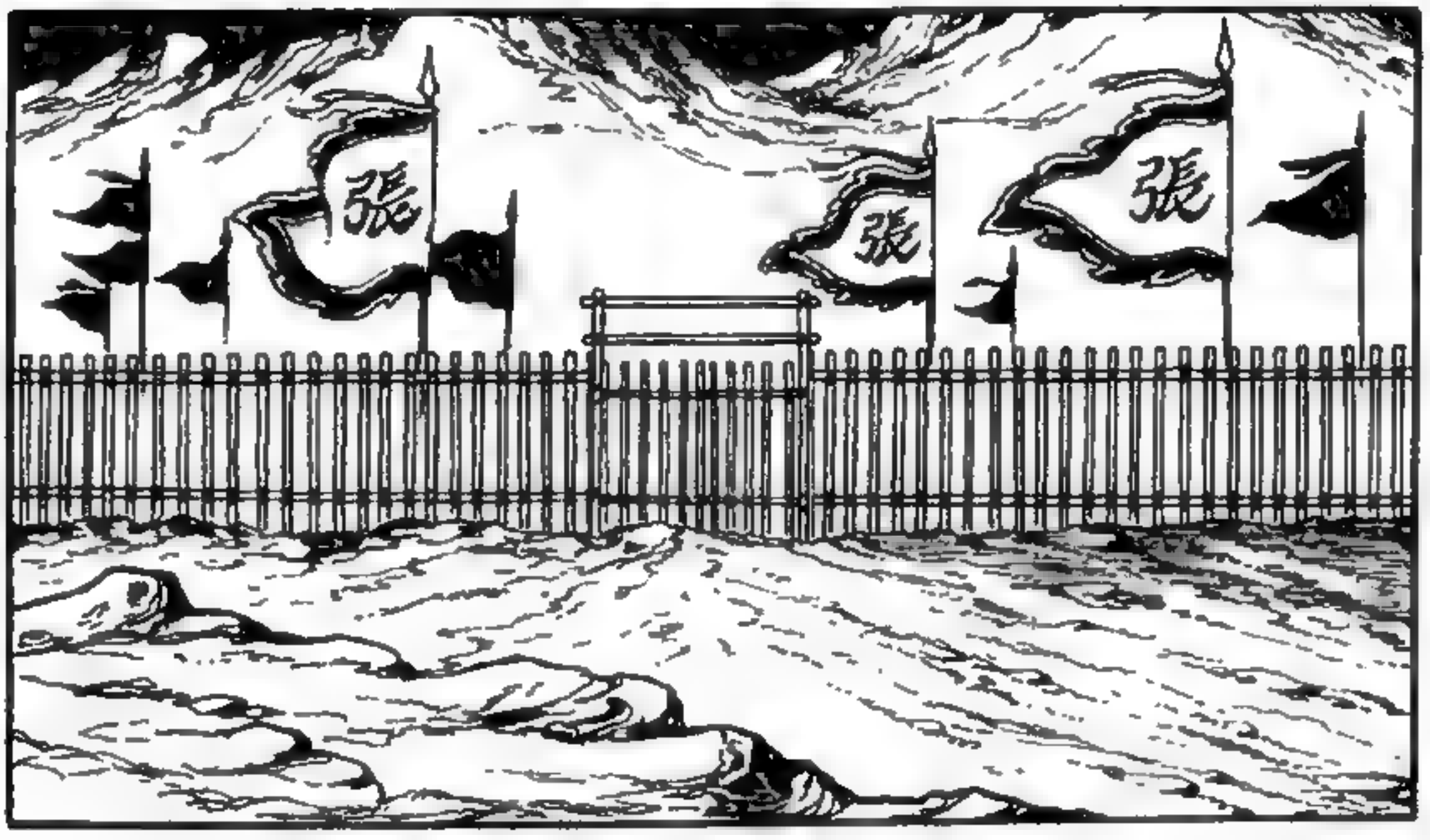
THEY SOUND MORE LIKE LITTLE KIDS THAN GROWN MEN FIGHTING A WAR.

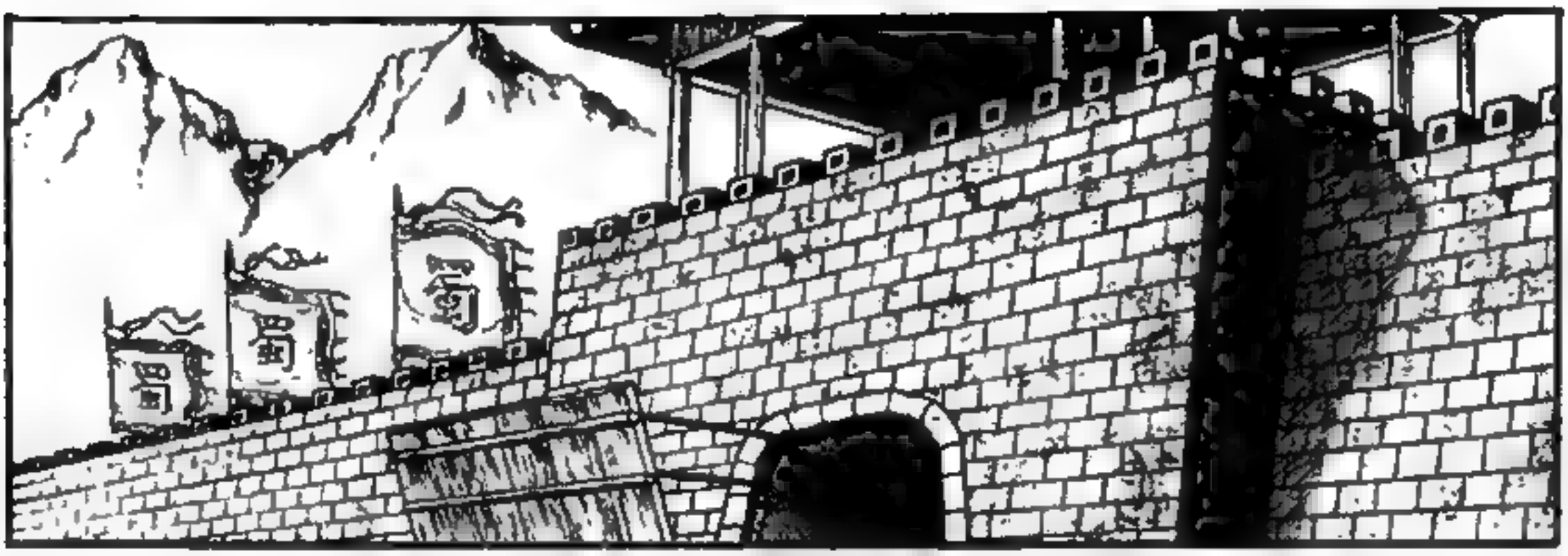


LET US RETURN BACK TO CAMP!

CURSES, THEY WON'T FALL FOR IT...

CLEARING THE FOREST




蜀
蜀
蜀

STRANGE?

SEVERAL HUNDRED OF HIS SOLDIERS GO TO THE HILLS NEARBY EVERYDAY TO CLEAR THE FOREST.

YES, IT'S RATHER STRANGE...
HMM, I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT BRUTE ZHANG FEI FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS. WHAT'S GOING ON?

IS THAT REALLY THE R REASON...?

IT SEEMS THEY'RE GATHERING FIREWOOD AND FOOD FOR HORSES.
WHAT? WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?

SEND OUT SOME MORE SCOUTS.

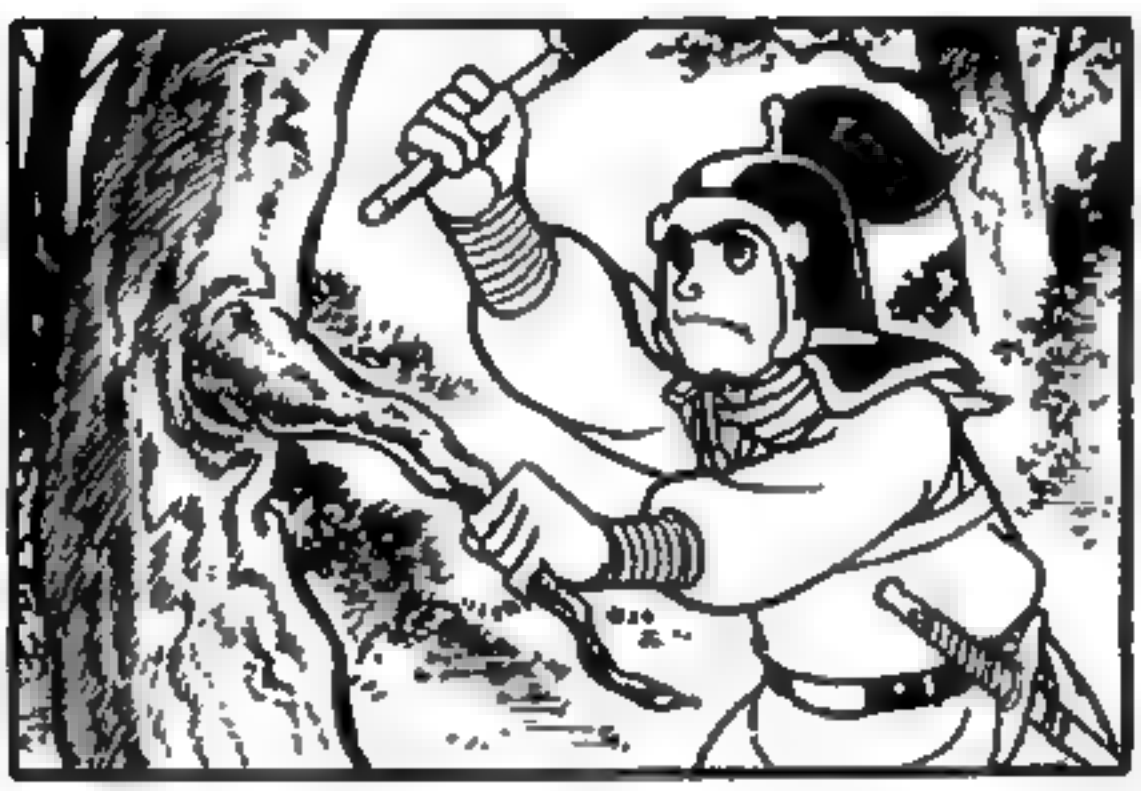
THEY'LL NEED SOME WAY TO SECURE FOOD FOR THE SOLDIERS IF THEY'RE PLANNING ON SIEGING US.

THAT NIGHT,

YAN YAN S SCOUTS HID IN THE HILLS WITH SCYTHES IN HAND

THE NEXT DAY...

ZHANG FEI'S TROOPS CAME TO THE HILLS AGAIN AND STARTED CUTTING BRANCHES AND THE GRASS



THE SCOUTS SECRETLY MIXED IN AMONG THEM,

AND SNUCK INTO ZHANG FEI'S CAMPS.

張
張

SIR, THERE IS NO NEED TO CUT THROUGH THE FOREST ANYMORE, FOR WE DISCOVERED A ROAD THAT WILL ALLOW US TO SNEAK PAST BAZHOU.

HOW'S THE PROGRESS SO FAR?

TELL ME SOONER NEXT TIME!

THERE'S A HIDDEN PATH!?

PREPARE TO DEPART AT ONCE! TAKING BAZHOU IS POINTLESS! ARRIVING AT LUO TAKES PRIORITY!

張

START LOADING UP ALL OUR FOOD ONTO THE WAGONS!

.....

I SEE, SO THEY WERE TRYING TO CLEAR OUT A NEW PATH THROUGH THE FOREST...

HAHA, THAT BRUTE GOT TIRED OF WAITING SO HE WANTS TO SNEAK HIS WAY OUT?

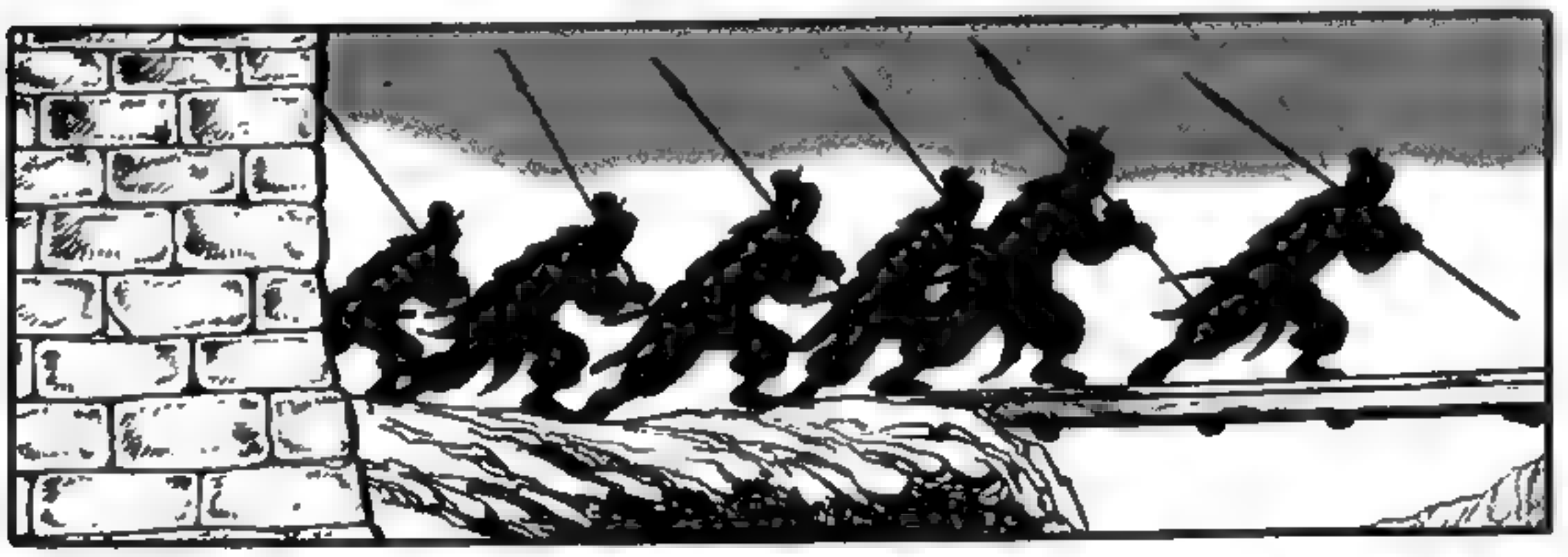
WE'LL STAGE AN AMBUSH TONIGHT!

WELL, WHY DON'T WE GIVE HIM A GRAND FAREWELL...?

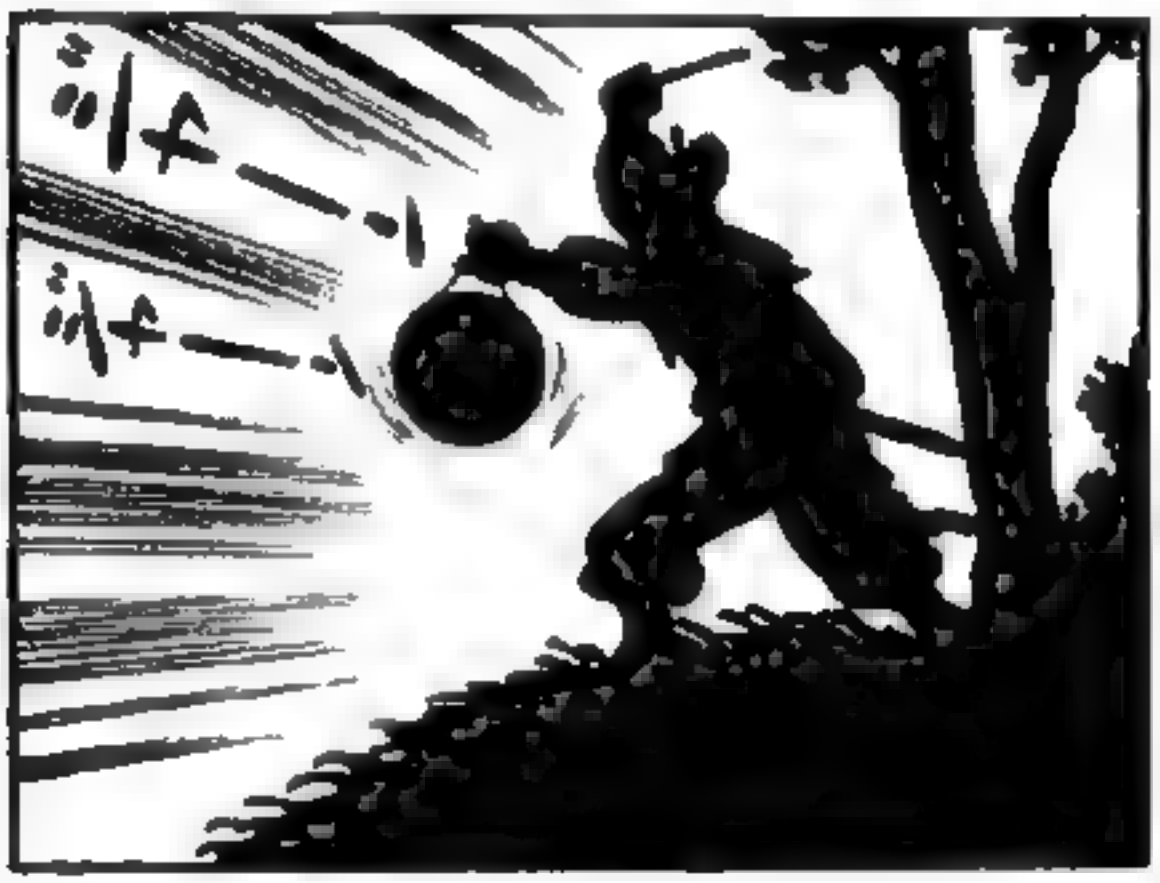
YES, SIR.

EVEN THE GREAT ZHANG FEI'S NOTHING MORE THAN A PAPER TIGER WHEN ROBBED OF SUPPLIES.

LET THEIR VANGUARD PASS AND STRIKE THE MIDDLE OF THEIR LINE, WHERE THEIR SUPPLY WAGONS SHOULD BE.



GIVE THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK ONCE THE SUPPLY WAGONS ARE SPOTTED.
GOOD, GOOD, LET HIM PASS.
I BELIEVE THAT WAS ZHANG FEI PASSING US.



GIVE THE SIGNAL!
THERE THEY ARE, SIR.

AHH!

ABANDON YOUR SUPPLY WAGONS IF YOU WISH TO LIVE!

THEN... YOU WEREN'T THE ONE LEADING THE VANGUARD!?

ZHANG FEI!?

HAHAHA! SO YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO COME OUT, DID YOU NOW, YAN YAN?

張飛

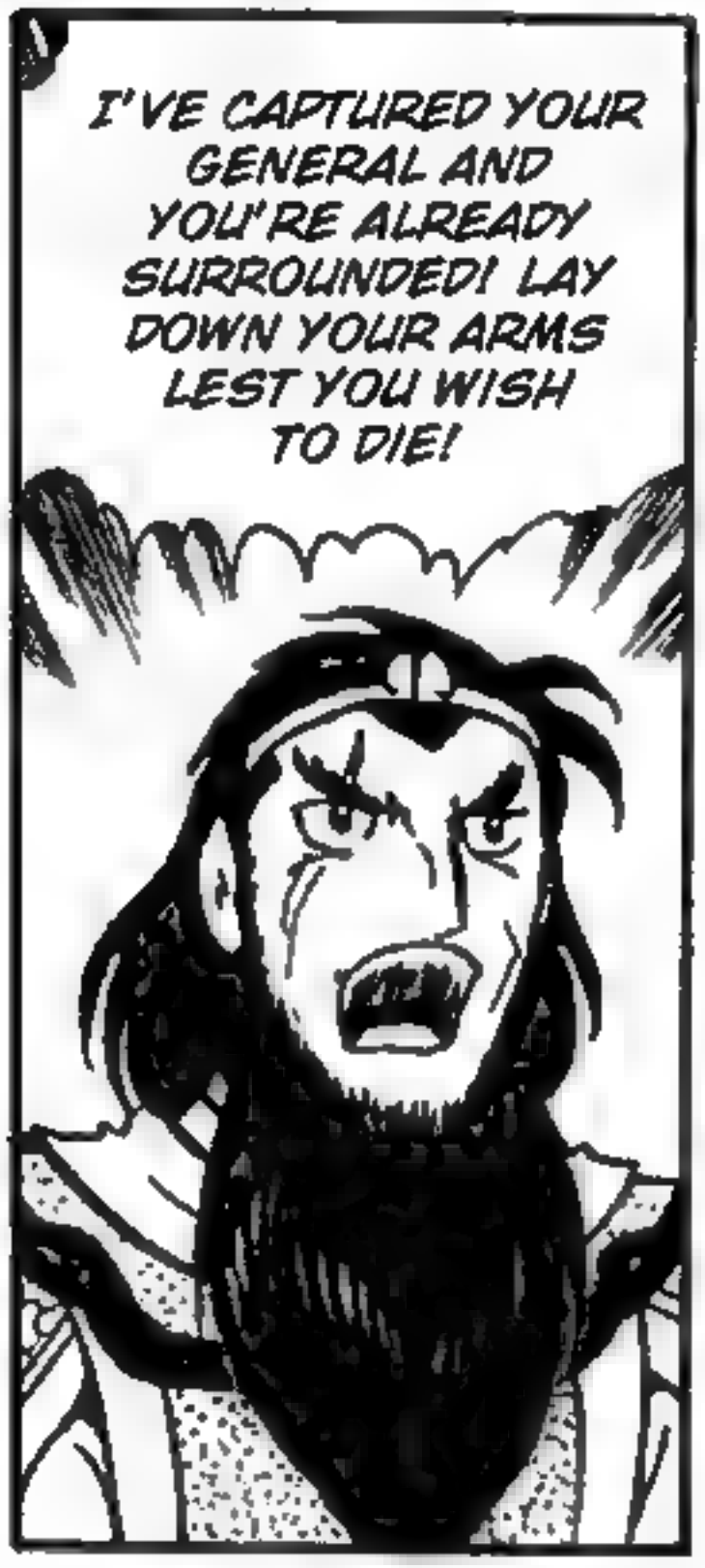
OF COURSE NOT. THIS WAS ALL AN ELABORATE PLAN TO LURE YOU OUT!

YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME ON!?

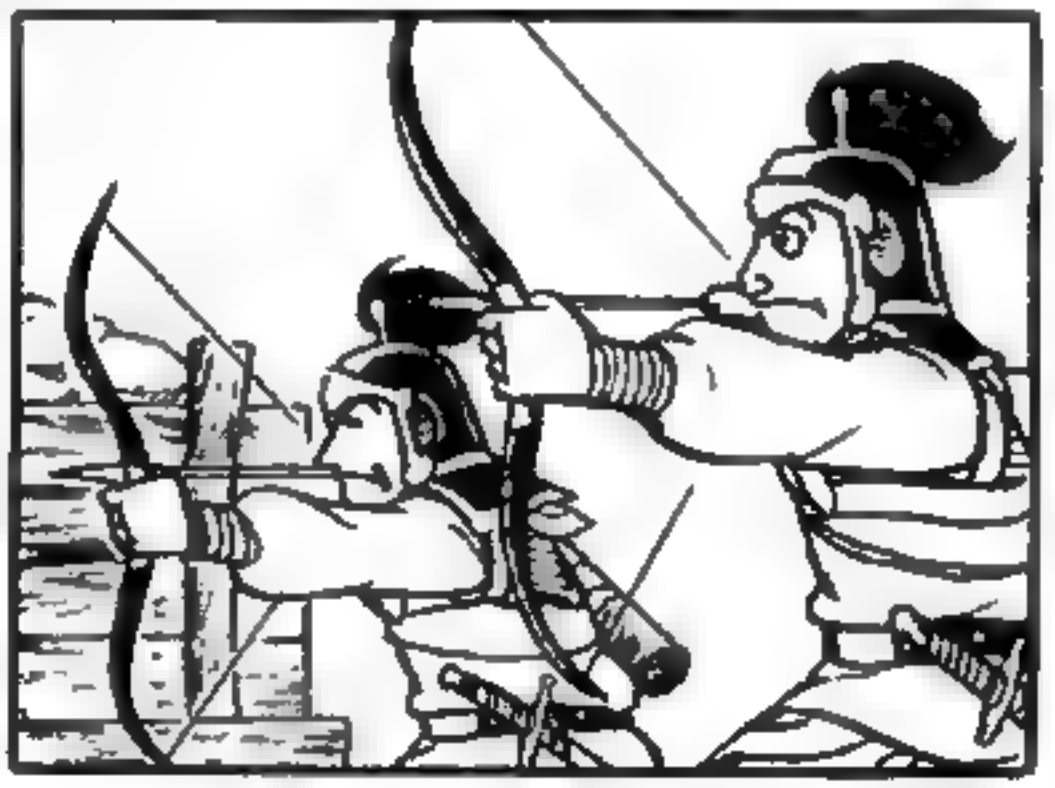
DAMN YOU!

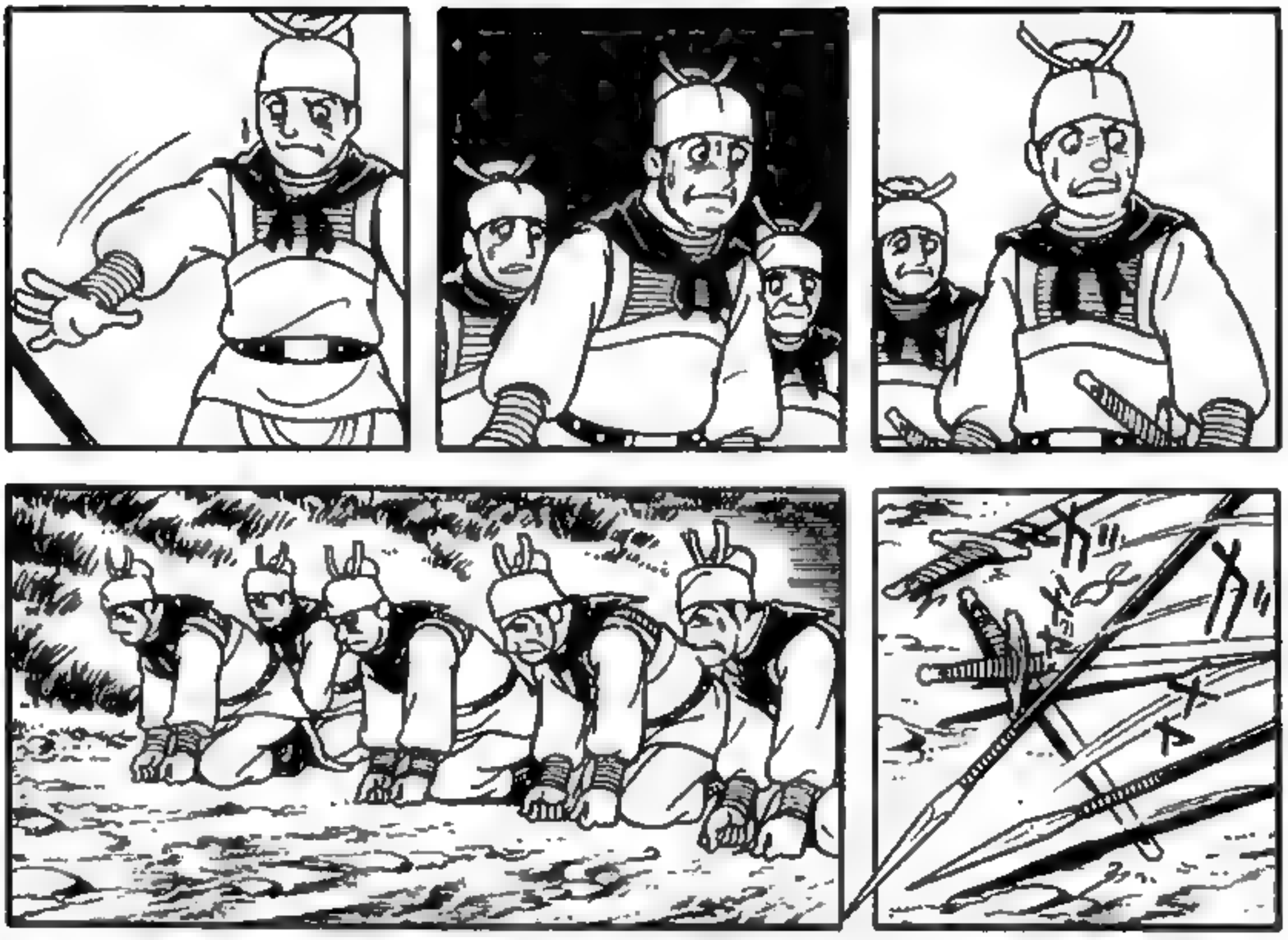
HAHH!

TIE HIM UP!


I'VE CAPTURED YOUR GENERAL AND YOU'RE ALREADY SURROUNDED! LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS LEST YOU WISH TO DIE!

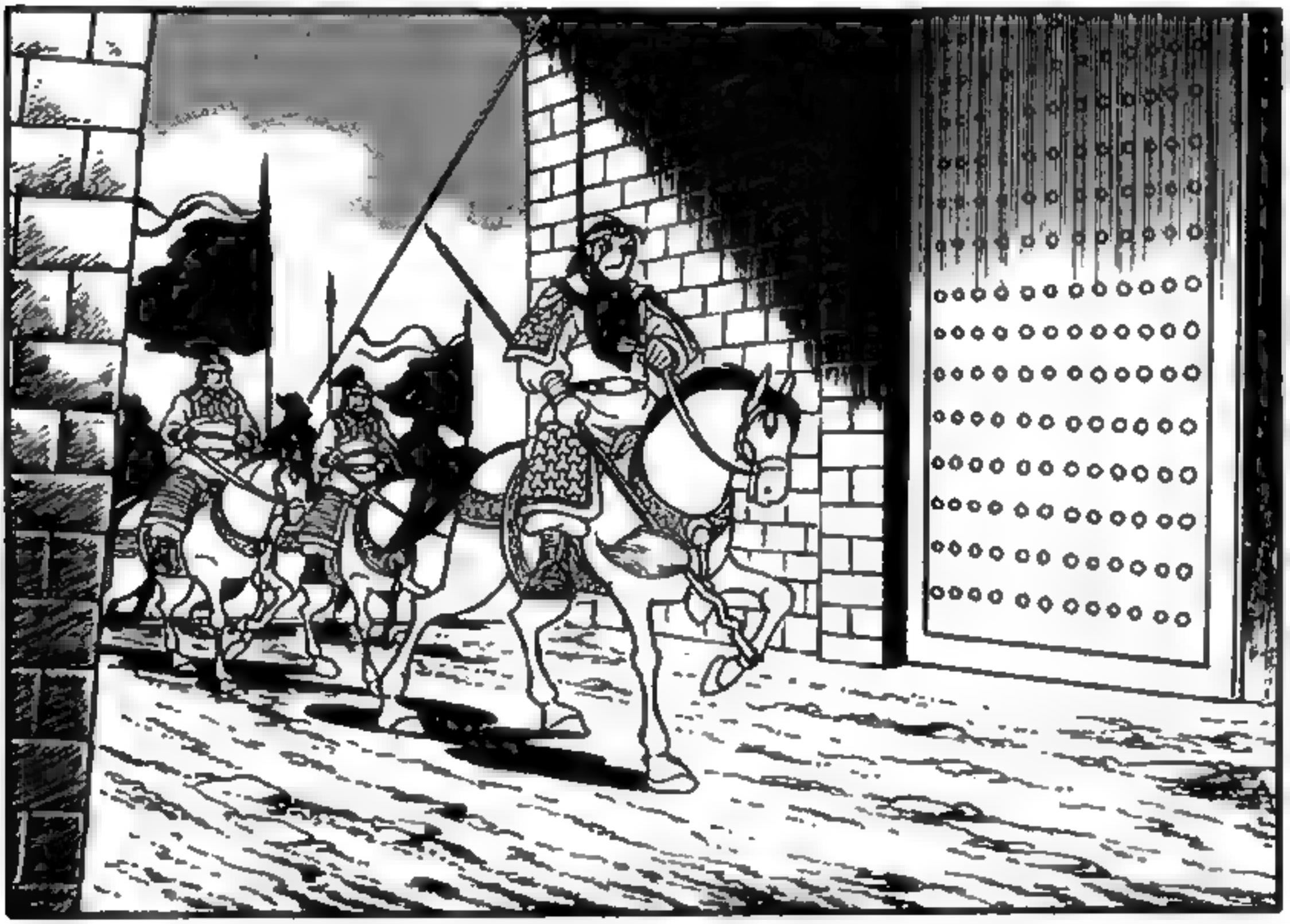
NGHH...

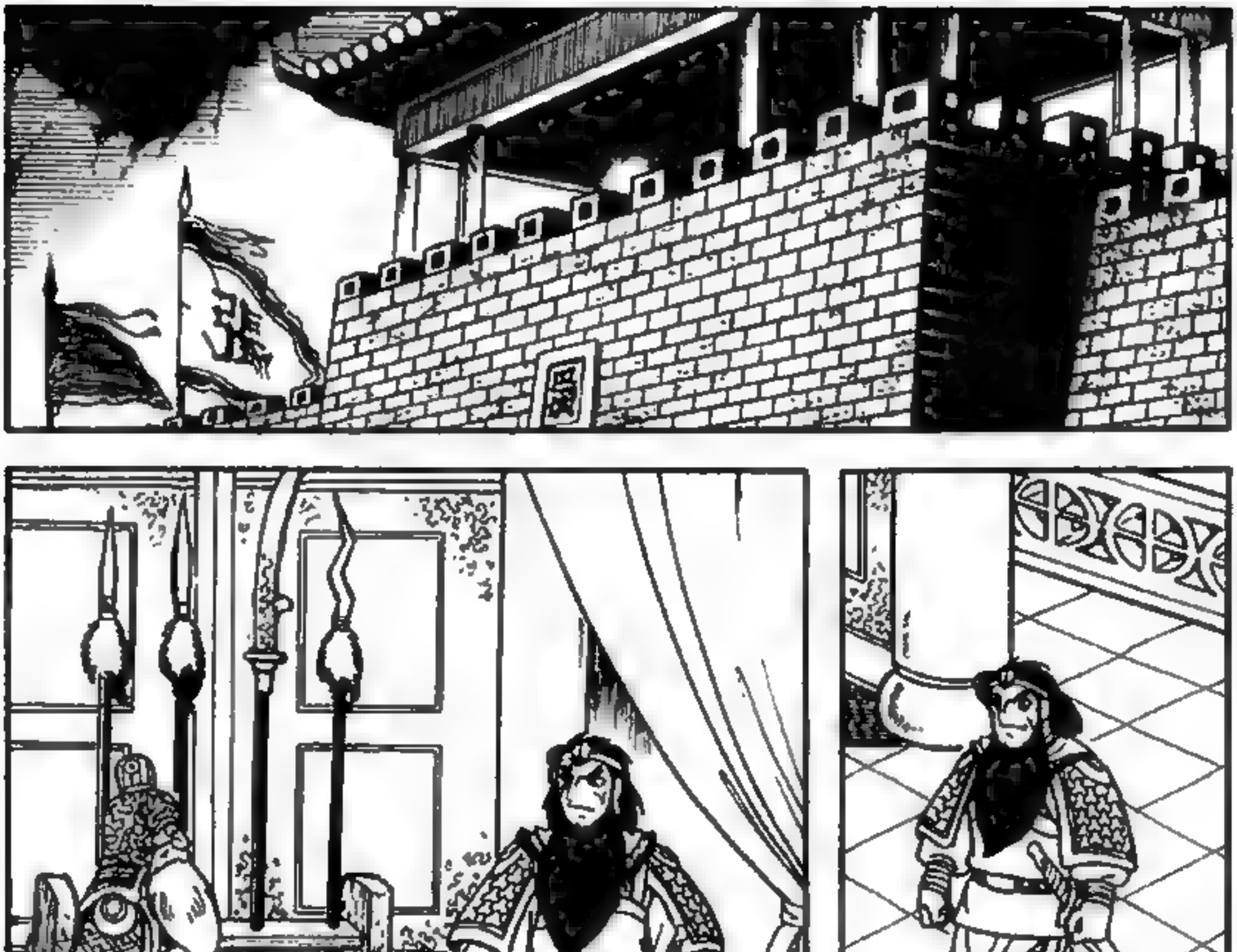




WISE
CHOICE.

張
NOW LET US ENTER BAZHOU!





I HAVE NO REASON TO KNEEL TO THE LIKES OF YOU!

YOU DARE REFUSE TO KNEEL?

CUT IT OFF THEN! I SHALL NOT MISS IT, FOR I'VE LIVED A LONG AND SATISFYING LIFE.

YOU ARE NOW MY CAPTIVE! IF YOU DO NOT KNEEL, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR HEAD!

NOW HURRY UP AND BE DONE WITH IT! KILL ME!

LISTEN WELL, ZHANG FEI! YOU ARE THE WICKED INVADERS WHILE WE ARE THE RIGHTEOUS DEFENDERS! ALTHOUGH YOU'LL FIND MANY OF US WILLING TO LOSE OUR HEADS, YOU'LL FIND NONE WILLING TO KNEEL AND SURRENDER!

HM...

YOU ARE A TRUE WARRIOR, YAN YAN. IF OUR POSITIONS WERE REVERSED, I WOULD ACT JUST THE SAME. FORGIVE MY EARLIER DISCOURTESIES.

?

!!

OF COURSE NOT! MY LORD AND I ARE NOT FIGHTING THIS WAR OUT OF GREED. WE DO IT FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF RESTORING HAN.

OH, SO YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY IGNORANT OF PROPER MORALS?

HMM... YES, I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THAT OATH OF YOURS...

THAT WAS WHAT BROUGHT THE IMPERIAL UNCLE, GUAN YU, AND I TOGETHER AND WHY WE SWORE AN OATH IN A PEACH GARDEN.

HMM...

JUST WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THE IMPERIAL UNCLE?

EXACTLY.

SO THIS IS ALL TO BRING STABILITY TO THE EMPIRE ONCE MORE?

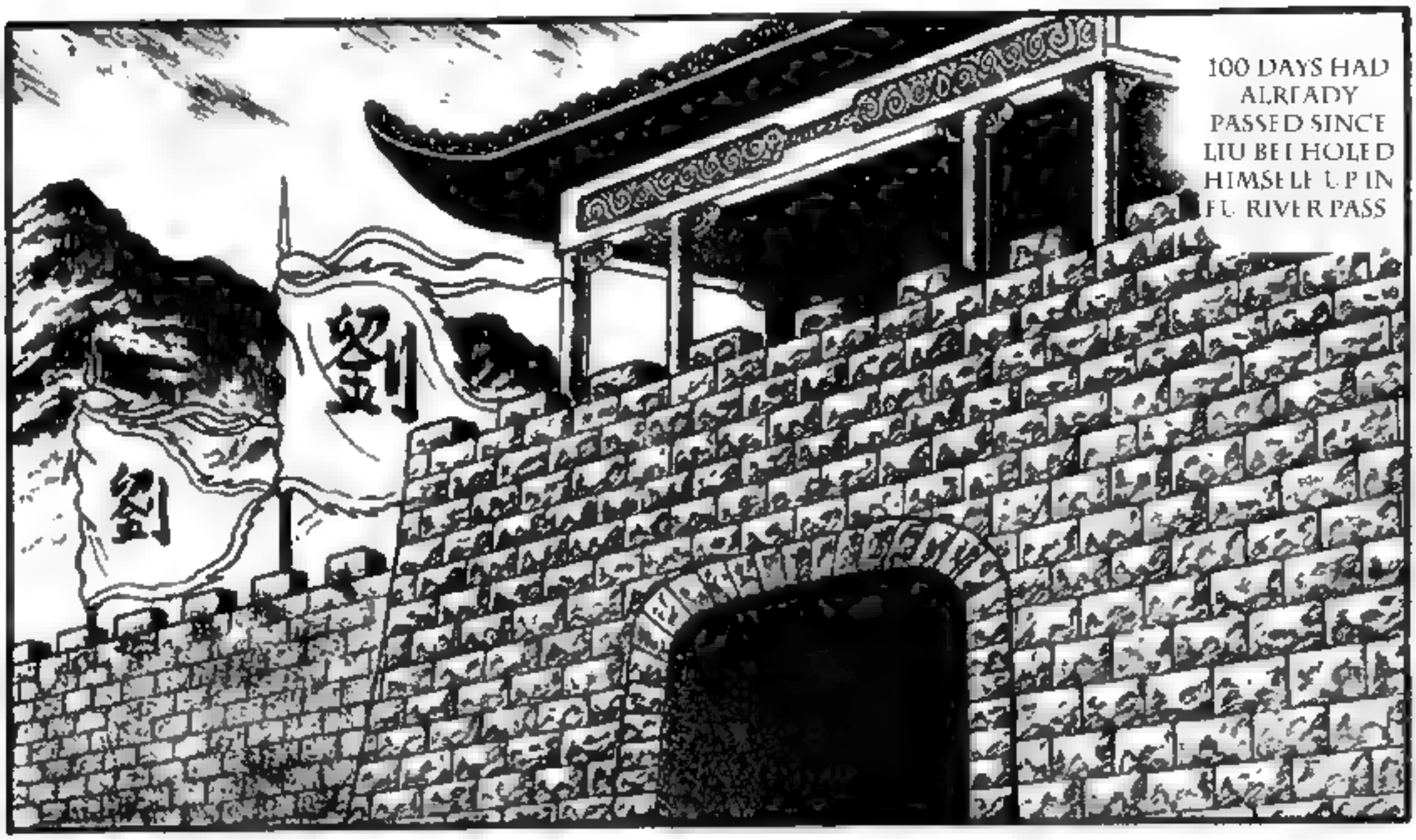
HMM...

HE IS A VIRTUOUS LORD. IT IS NO WONDER WHY SO MANY MEN FLOCK TO HIS SIDE IN ORDER TO SERVE HIM.

WELL SAID, FRIEND!

I WOULD BE HONOURED IF YOU WOULD JOIN HANDS WITH ME SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF SHU CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE IN PEACE.

LURE


100 DAYS HAD
ALREADY
PASSED SINCE
LIU BEI HOLED
HIMSELF UP IN
FU RIVER PASS
劉
劉

HE WAS SET ON
WAITING FOR
KONGMING TO
ARRIVE BEFORE
RELAUNCHING
HIS OFFENSIVE

HAVING REFUSED TO COME OUT AND ATTACK FOR SO LONG, WE SEEM TO HAVE MADE OUR ENEMIES LET DOWN THEIR GUARDS.

YES, WHAT IS IT, HUANG ZHONG?

MY LORD.

HMM, GOOD POINT.

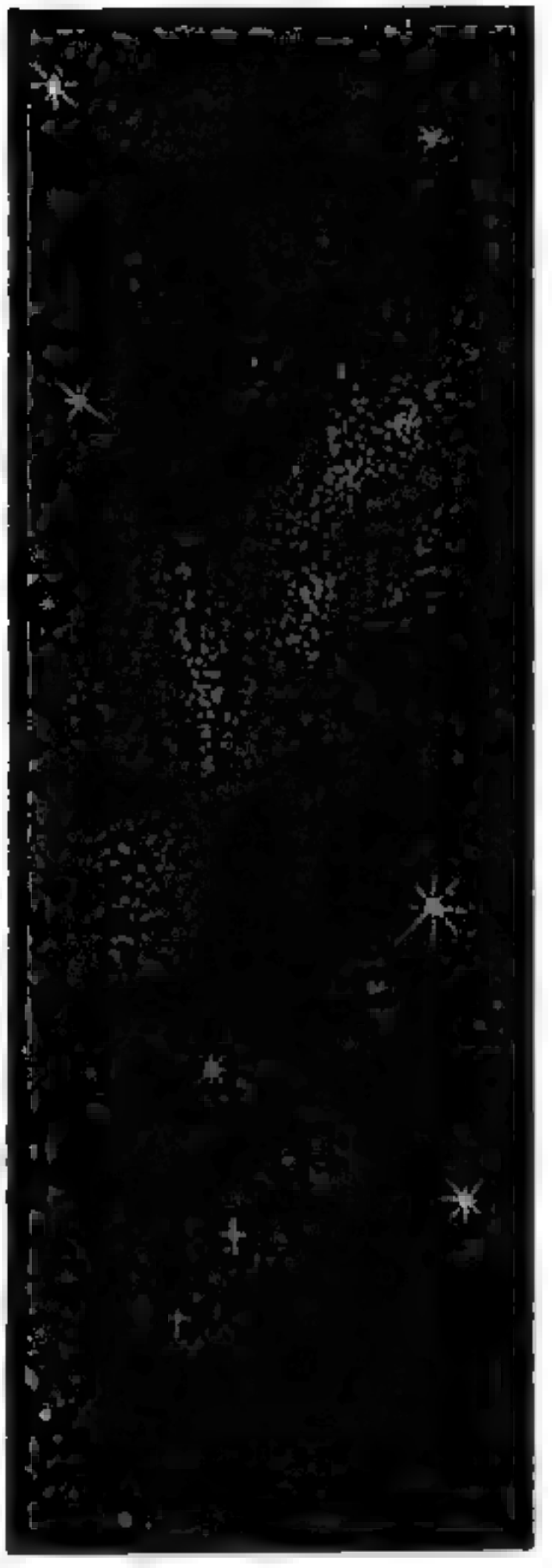
IF WE EXPLOIT THIS, THEIR MORALE WILL PLUMMET AND WE MAY QUICKLY END THIS WAR ONCE OUR REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.

FINE, LET'S CONDUCT A NIGHT RAID.

YES, SIR.

INFORM THE OTHER OFFICERS.

LIU BEI
SECRETLY
LED HIS
ARMY
OUT,

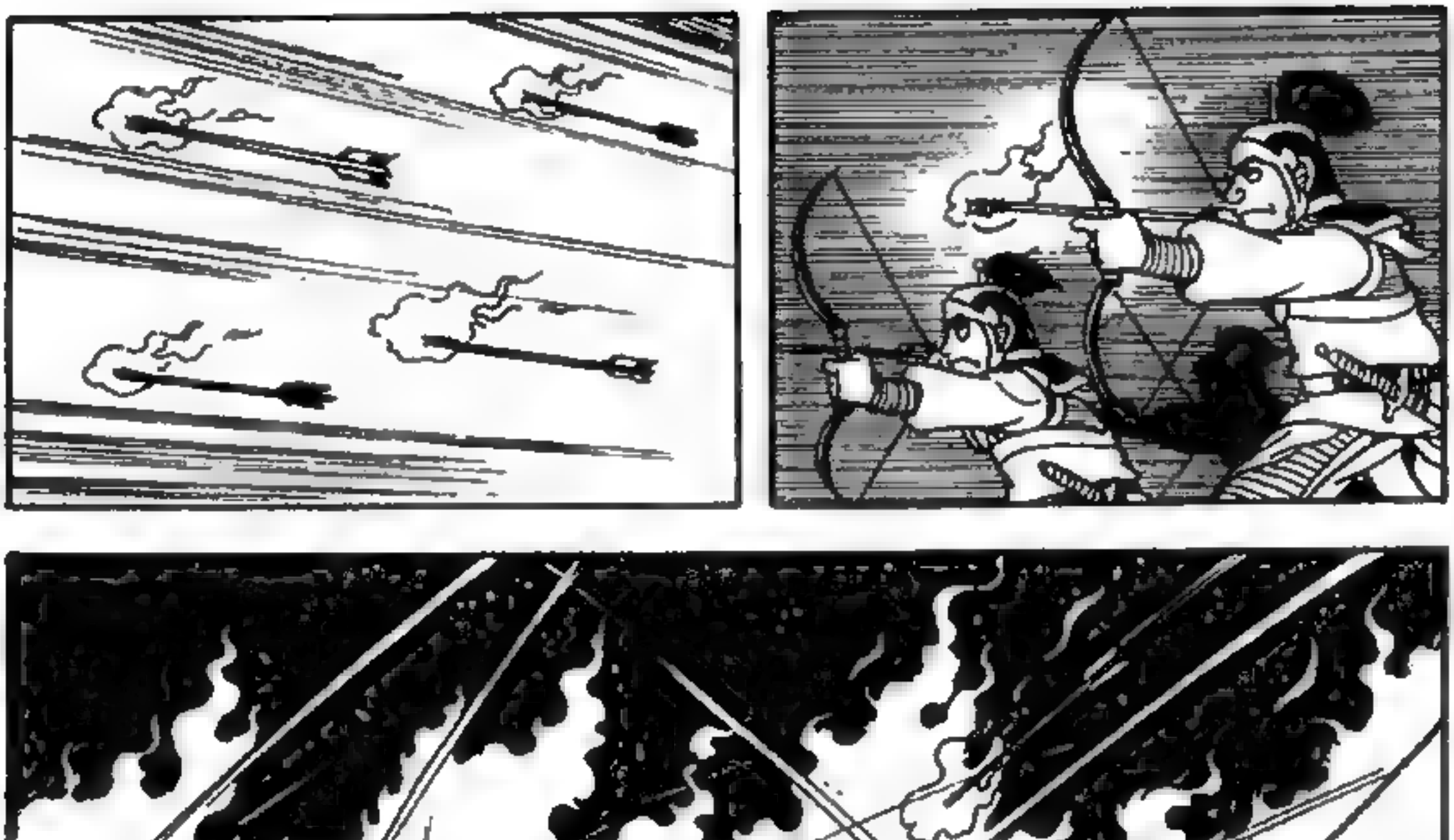


AND THEY
QUICKLY
STORMED
THE
ENEMIES
SURROUND-
ING FU
RIVER PASS

HM?

W-WHA?

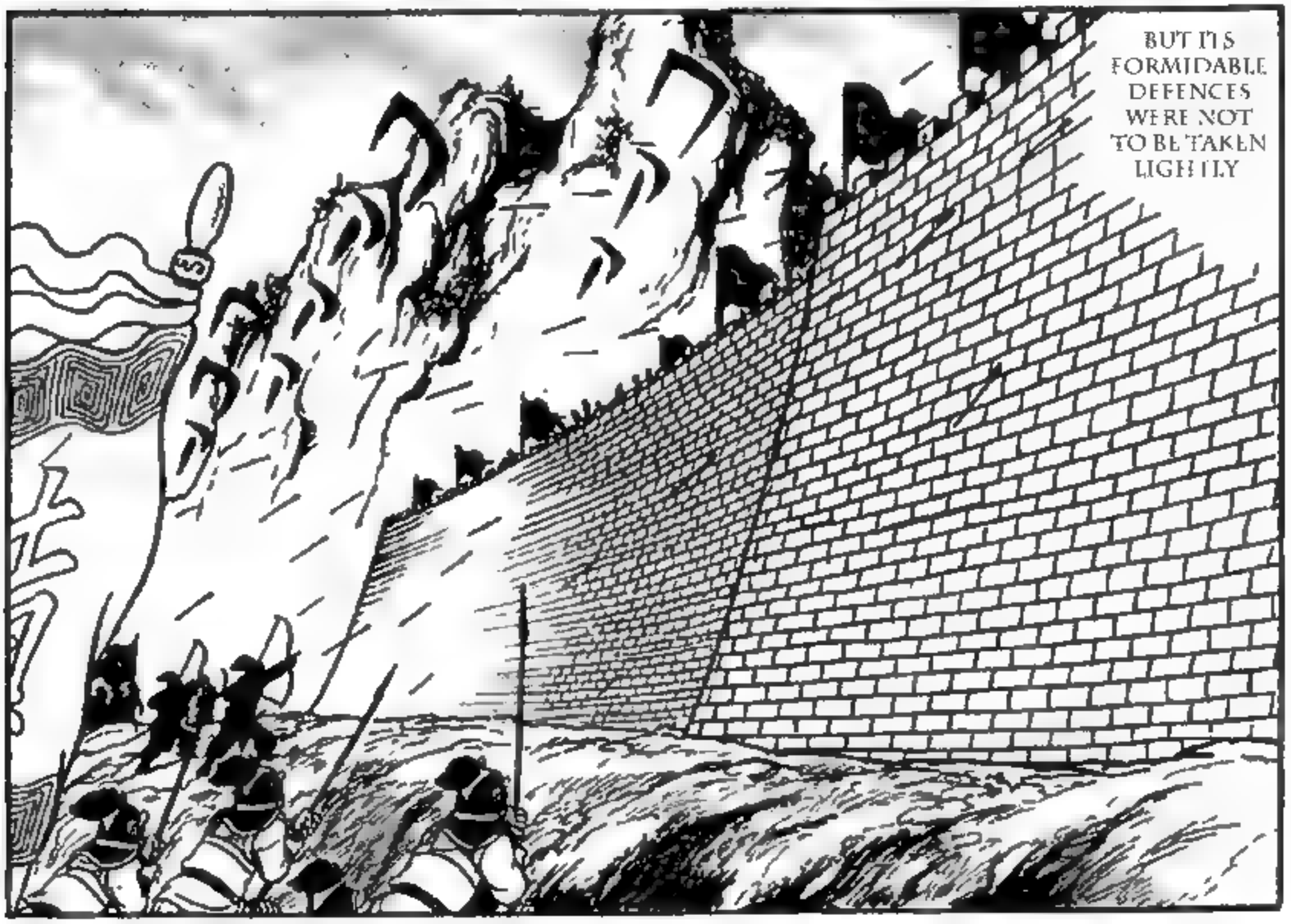
IT'S AN ENEMY RAID!

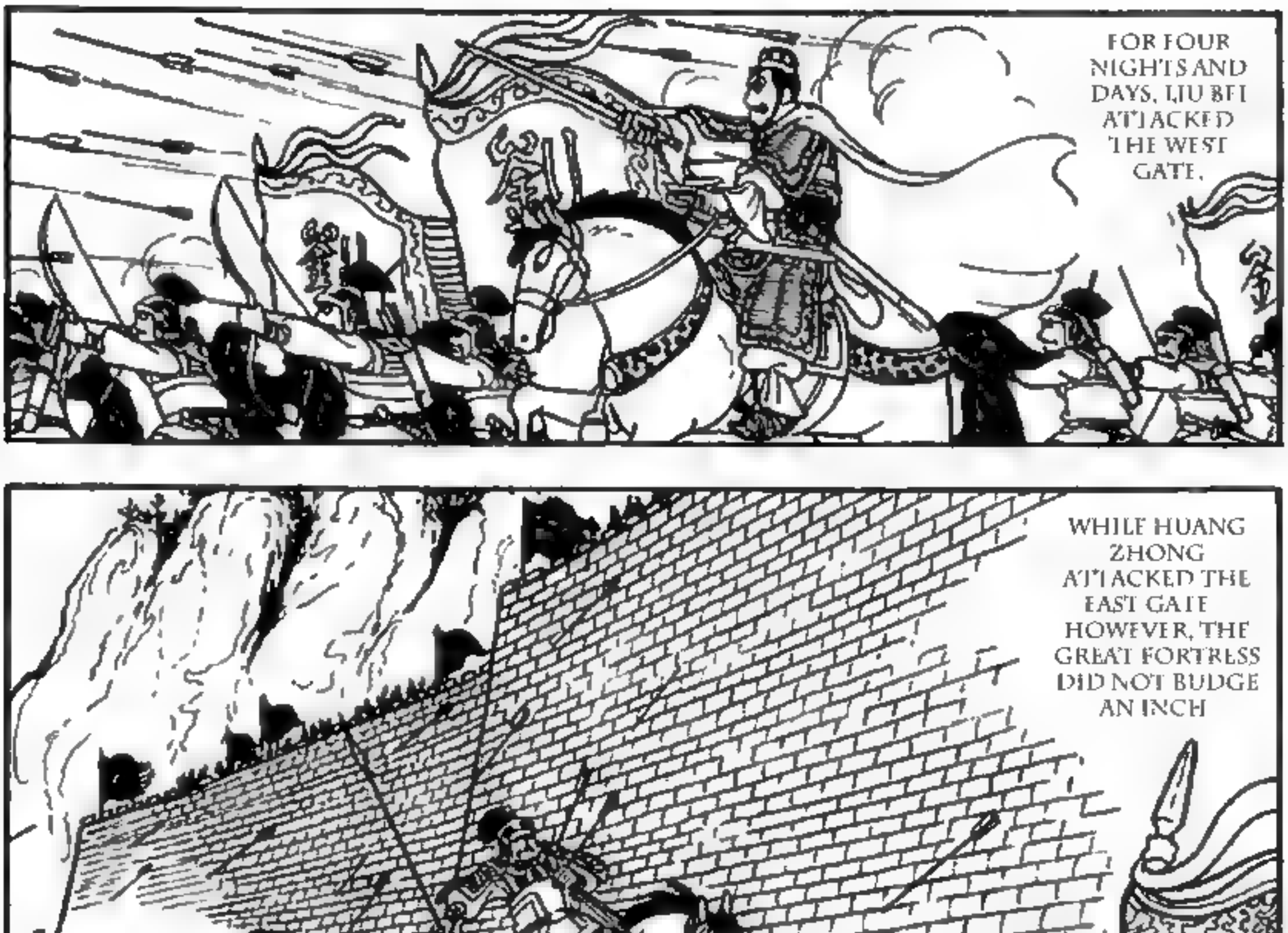


THE SHU SOLDIERS RETREATED TO LUO, COMPLETELY DISORGANIZED

PRESSING ON, LIU BEI'S ARMY SOON REACHED LUO.

IT WAS A ONE SIDED AFFAIR.


BUT ITS FORMIDABLE DEFENCES WERE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY


FOR FOUR NIGHTS AND DAYS, LIU BEI ATTACKED THE WEST GATE.
WHILE HUANG ZHONG ATTACKED THE EAST GATE HOWEVER, THE GREAT FORTRESS DID NOT BUDGE AN INCH
LIU BEI'S TROOPS WERE NOW EXHAUSTED AND FORLORN

HAHA, HE WOULD NEVER GUESS EVEN IN HIS DREAMS THAT THIS WAS ALL A PLAN TO LURE HIM OUT FROM FU RIVER PASS!

YES, LIU BEI'S ARMY ARE EXHAUSTED TO THE POINT OF COLLAPSE.

IT LOOKS OUR CHANCE HAS FINALLY COME.

IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL DEAL WITH LIU BEI PERSONALLY AT THE WESTERN GATES.

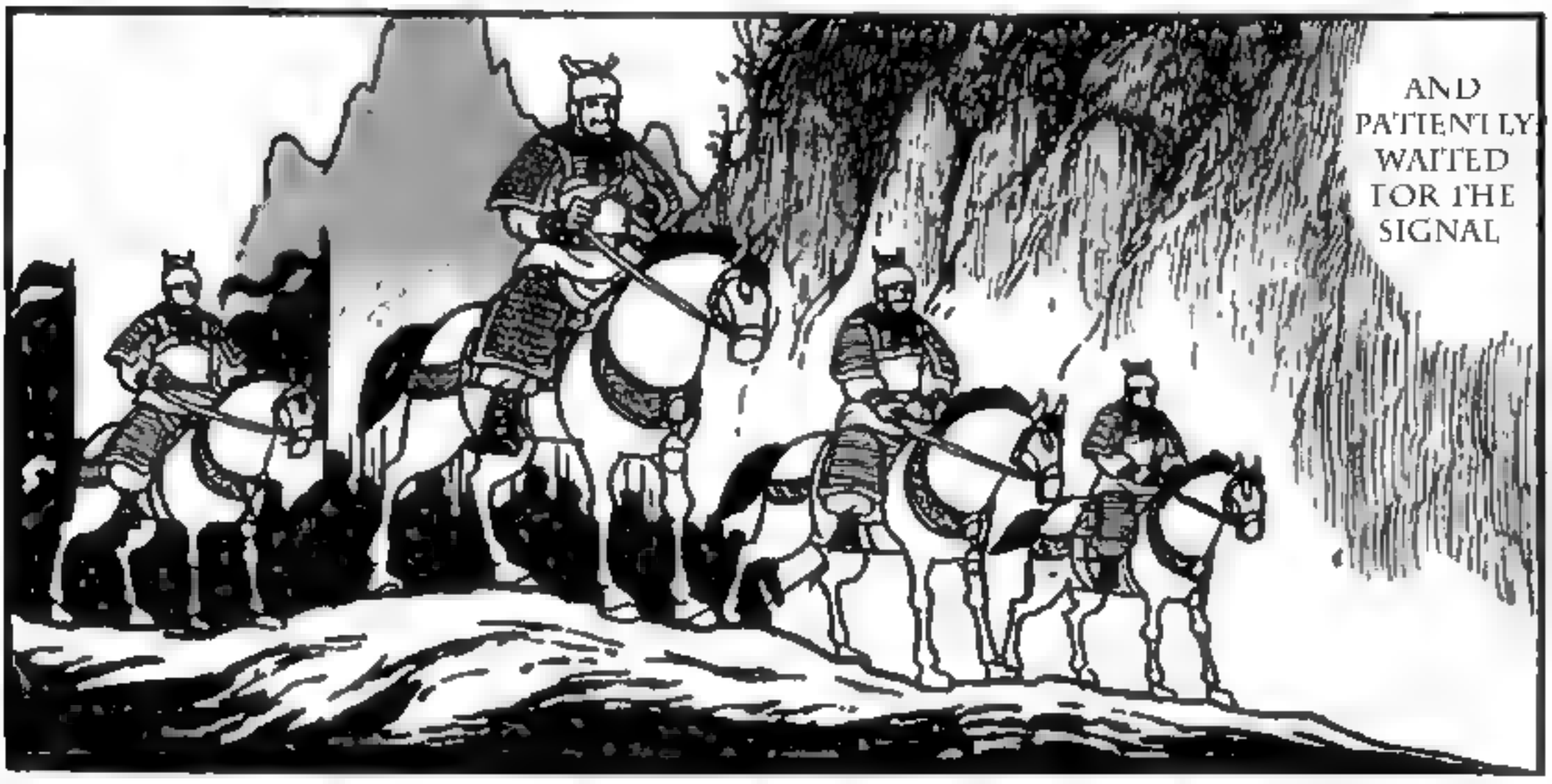
WU LAN, LEI TONG. I WANT YOU TO ATTACK AND TIE DOWN HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN AT THE EASTERN GATES.

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU WON'T ESCAPE TONIGHT, LIU BEI.

AND I WANT THE REST OF OUR TROOPS TO SNEAK OUT THROUGH THE SOUTHERN GATES AND CUT OFF LIU BEI'S RETREAT.

AND SO A CONTINGENT OF THE SHU FORCES SECRETLY SNUCK OFF,

TO LIU BEI'S REAR,


AND PATIENTLY WAITED FOR THE SIGNAL

SMOKE?

HM?

ATTACK!

THE ENEMIES ARE COMING OUT!

HM?

W-WHEN DID THEY...!?

SIR! ENEMIES AT OUR REAR SPOTTED!

SIR! HUANG ZHONG AND WEI YAN ARE ALSO ENGAGING WITH THE ENEMIES!

I'M AFRAID THE ONLY CHOICE WE HAVE IS TO RETREAT, MY LORD.

THEN HOPING FOR THEIR AID IS FUTILE...

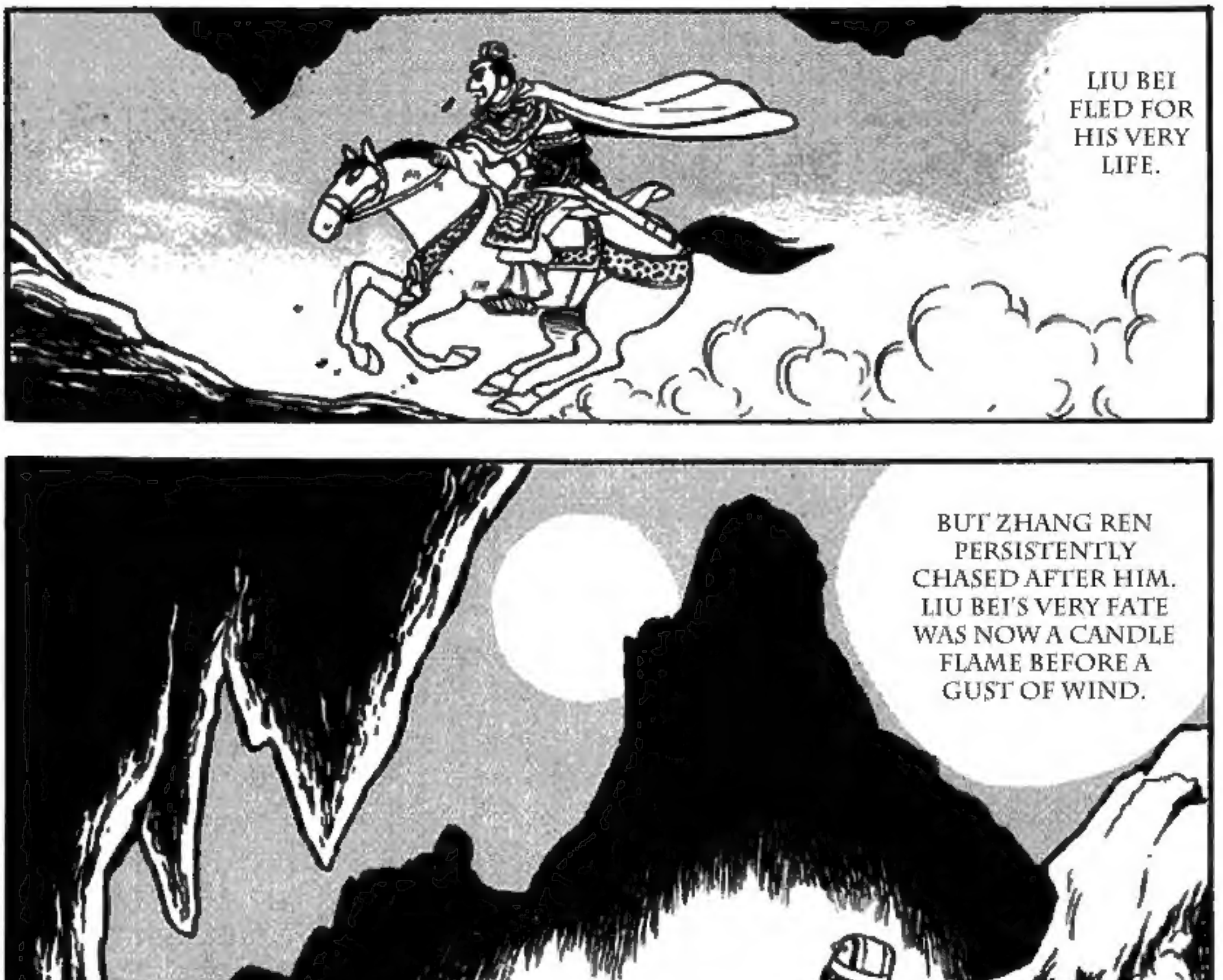
WHAT!? THE ENEMIES CAME OUT FROM THE EAST GATE TOO!?

WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT SOONER...!?

TO THINK THE ENEMIES WERE PLANNING ALL OF THIS...

LIKE A FLOOD, THE SHU SOLDIERS SWEPT THROUGH LIU BEI'S LINES.

THERE HE IS! THAT'S LIU BEI!


LIU BEI FLED FOR HIS VERY LIFE.
BUT ZHANG REN PERSISTENTLY CHASED AFTER HIM. LIU BEI'S VERY FATE WAS NOW A CANDLE FLAME BEFORE A GUST OF WIND.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

eBOOKで
快適読書生活

http://www.ebookjapan.jp

電子書籍版

三国志

34

横山 光輝

© 光プロダクション／潮出版社

Original 潮出版社 希望コミックス

Digital Distributor
eBOOK Initiative Japan Co.,Ltd.
〒101-0062　東京都千代田区神田駿河台 2-9-18
http://www.ebookjapan.jp